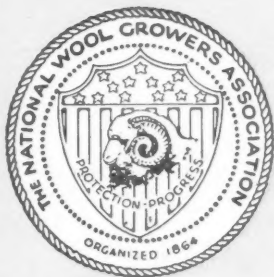


# *The* NATIONAL WOOL GROWER



VOLUME XXI  
NUMBER 5  
MAY, 1931

## FEEDING AND CARCASS TESTS

With

Rambouillets, Corriedales,  
Hampshire - Rambouillet  
Crossbreds  
and  
Hampshire - Corriedale  
Crossbreds



GAME and NATIONAL  
FOREST GRAZING

Official Organ of the  
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Salt Lake City, Utah  
and  
NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION  
Boston, Mass.

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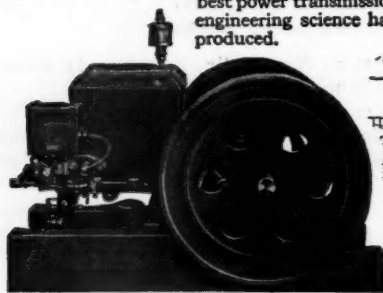
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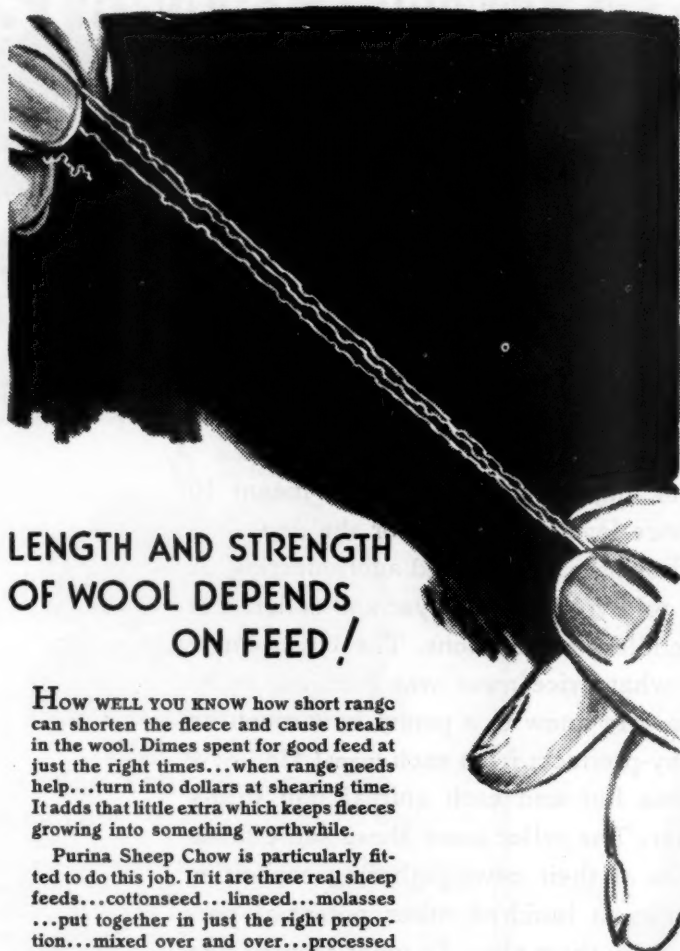
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# The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

## Official Organ of the NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION and the NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING ASSOCIATION

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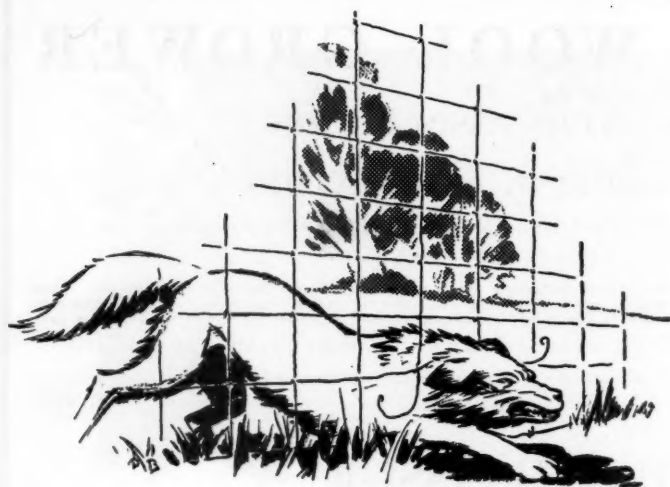
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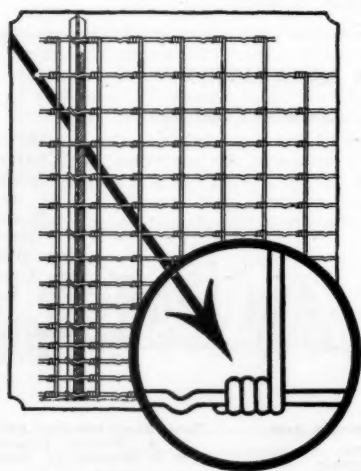
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# EDITORIAL

This depression, like weather at winter resorts, is 'unusual'. It has overstayed its allotted time. Some commodities have continued to decline after reaching the low spots of a quarter of a century.

The textile industry continues to be pointed out by financial journals as having shown a larger degree of improvement than any other industry. It was, of course expected that textiles would be the first to emerge from the low period. They led the decline and should be in the advance on the return, but they are only part way back, and other commodities lag in a most aggravating fashion.

## Larger Wool Consumption

Reports of increase in consumption of wool are printed in this issue of the Wool Grower. They are not pronounced, but are very significant and point in the right direction. There is danger of reaching wrong conclusions by considering our present rate of wool consumption. The amount used for clothing purposes last year was 365 million pounds, twenty per cent less than in 1927 when rayon and silk were in their extreme of fashion and popularity. It does not seem unreasonable to regard the 1927 consumption as a fair measure of requirements when conditions have reached their new normal.

London wool prices showed a small decline late in April equal to about one-fourth of their advance in March. This advance had not been reflected in Boston, although United States mill conditions are better than in Europe. The failure of Boston prices to show any part of the London advance must be charged to sales made at low figures by growers in the west. Dealers were able to secure considerable amounts of wool on the basis of prices as they were before the foreign advance. Holders of old wools cannot persuade manufacturers to pay world prices when it is indicated that growers are agreeable to selling without regard to changes in prices.

## Growers Undersell

The improvement in wool has not been large enough to have much influence upon the value of pelts of fed lambs now going to the markets. However, the demand for sheep skins from which the wool has been pulled is stronger, and this, with more confidence in wool itself, accounts in part for the stronger tone in the lamb market.

There is real encouragement in the fact that

dressed lamb trade has been so strong and active with an April supply that was twelve per cent larger than that of the previous month, and seven per cent above April of last year. At the close of April, spring lambs are quoted at \$1.50 lower than they were a year ago, and spring lamb carcasses New York, at \$25.00 were \$2.00 below that time. It is becoming more apparent that lamb has found a larger place in the meat trade. With proper educational activities and the needed uniformity in delivery of supplies at the markets, it should be possible to maintain better prices without drastic curtailment of production.

## Increased Lamb Demand

The character of the summer lamb trade cannot be foretold, but prices will depend largely upon the supply, and particularly upon the success achieved by raisers in the arranging of shipments of the new crop to secure a uniform rate of delivery at the market, particularly between May and September.

Recent reports of 1930 meat consumption show a falling off in respect to pork which was not counterbalanced by the eight-tenths pounds per capita increase in the consumption of lamb. The consumption of beef and veal was at practically the same rate as in 1929. While the decline in total meat consumption gives us ground for concern, it must also be recalled that the domestic demand and consumptive rate absorbed the country's production.

## Meat Consumption

Higher prices for livestock may be expected to cause larger production and shipment, but it remains to be seen how far the consumers would increase their purchases with higher prices. Much will, of course, depend upon the prices of other food products. Statistics are not available to show what foods were used to supply the deficiency in meat, but it is certain that the total per capita consumption of food does not alter materially. There is no room for doubt that the American people appreciate the value of meat. The problem is found in its future price in relation to prices of other food products. Raisers of meat animals have made material reductions in costs, but it is not certain that these economies can be continued if there should be an advance in the price of what the farmer and stockman must purchase. An increase in prices of live animals must inevitably reach the consumer, but there is still room for material economies in our systems of meat distribution, and producers have a new and larger interest in this side of the industry.

## Game and National Forest Grazing

THERE was an increase of 47 per cent between 1924 and 1929 in the combined numbers of deer, elk, and antelope reported by the United States Forest Service as believed to be running on the lands in forest reservations.

In the same period, the numbers of cattle and horses grazed under permit fell off 20 per cent. Sheep and goats increased 5 per cent. These two changes were caused in part by permittees transferring from the cattle to the sheep business. The five-year increase in deer and elk is equal to 20 per cent of the number of permitted cattle in 1929 and to 22 per cent of the number of sheep for that year if deer and elk are rated on the same forage consuming capacity as cattle.

What will be the final result if the game on the forests continues to increase at the present rate? The question is now giving serious concern to many stockmen and forest officials. At the request of Utah stock owners the governor of that state recently named a committee to study and report upon the situation. In conference with forest officials, the committee was given to understand that the United States Forest Service will not come into the state of Utah and attempt to handle the big game situation unless the state indicates that it is incapable of doing so itself and calls for help.

It is not admitted by the officials of the Forest Service that reductions in grazing permits are being made for the purpose of providing more forage for the increasing numbers of big game, but in making his annual report to the Secretary of Agriculture last September, the Forester showed that "over 4,000,000 acres have been closed to the grazing of livestock in the interests of game, timber, watershed, and recreational protection."

The same report shows that of the 1929 total 132,922,823 acres in the

forests, 115,000,000 are usable for grazing, and there were 31 acres per head of stock (counting 5 sheep as one cow) in 1929 against 37 acres in 1909.

A broader and fairer idea of the facts in this situation and the extent to which established grazing customs are menaced by increasing numbers of game animals can best be obtained by examination of the figures upon numbers of game animals, and the official expressions of the officers in the Forest Service.

### The Increase in Big Game

The numbers of deer, elk, antelope and bear on forest lands in 1924 and five years later, as estimated by the Forest Service in eleven western states are as follows:

	Deer		Elk		Antelope		Bears Black & Brown	
	1924	1929	1924	1929	1924	1929	1924	1929
Arizona	49,020	84,832	659	1,070	1,421	3,929	796	534
California	181,800	254,475	135	193	354	900	7,882	11,400
Colorado	22,673	33,315	6,404	10,286	63	110	2,720	2,641
Idaho	49,423	62,288	4,404	8,828	1,353	2,585	5,352	5,603
Montana	50,825	51,890	9,206	12,958	529	537	4,879	5,646
New Mexico	19,448	57,785	40	319	728	1,000	611	789
Nevada	3,720	7,440			290	190	50	
Oregon	59,207	81,455	3,441	7,699	30	159	6,102	5,564
Utah	18,161	45,729	1,808	2,648	15		439	466
Washington	23,725	28,598	8,498	9,099			6,805	8,325
Wyoming	9,253	13,910	16,840	28,728	275	410	1,501	1,795
23 Other States	112,332	80,742	1,230	844	13	4,328	7,189	8,435
Total	550,567	802,459	52,665	82,672	5,071	10,219	44,326	50,664

### Forest Service Policy

In discussing recreation and game in his last annual report, Forester Stuart had this to say:

#### Recreation

The estimated number of persons visiting the national forests in 1929 was 31,758,231, which was greater by 38 per cent than in the preceding year and more than ten times greater than in 1917. Specifically, the estimates included 376,780 special-use permittees and their guests, 1,795,861 hotel and resort guests, 1,902,961 campers, 3,056,456 picnickers, and 24,626,173 transient motorists. Inevitably these estimates involve certain duplications, since the same person

may visit and be counted in several different forests or the same forest several different times in the year; their chief significance is for year-to-year comparisons, for which they are approximately accurate.

During the year 307 additional public camp grounds were at least partially equipped with facilities essential to public health and convenience and the protection of public property. The total number of national-forest camp grounds now wholly or partly improved is 1,493. Many additional facilities must be installed before these

areas will adequately provide the safeguards to public health and property necessitated by the presence of many millions of people within the national forests during the periods of greatest fire danger. Expenditures for camp-ground improvement during 1929 totaled \$51,086. The entire cost of the existing system of camp grounds has been \$329,922, of which \$48,642 was contributed by public or private cooperators in cash, materials, or labor. \* \* \*

Many communities established originally on the bases of timber, forage, mineral, or agricultural resources now either depleted or inadequate to sustain modern standards of life have been able to maintain or enlarge their incomes through various forms of service to the millions who visit the national forests, and have thus become economically dependent upon the recreation

### Sheepmen's Calendar

California Ram Sale, Sacramento—  
June 1-2.

Arizona Wool Growers Convention,  
Flagstaff—July 14-15.

Colorado Wool Growers Convention,  
Durango—July 27-28.

Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Con-  
vention, San Angelo—July 28-31.

National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City—  
August 24-27.

and game resources of the forests. In consequence, these resources have assumed a new economic importance, frequently ranking with and in some cases outranking other natural resources. The proper conservation and development of the recreation and game resources, therefore, is regarded as a distinct obligation by the Forest Service. Much which markedly will enhance the value and service of these resources and promote the growth and progress of dependent communities can be accomplished by more intensive planning, development, and management of outstanding areas. It would be good national economy to meet the cost of such work. \* \* \*

### Game

During the last five years the estimated number of antelope has increased 35 per cent, of black or brown bear 9 per cent, of deer 32 per cent, of elk 15 per cent, of mountain goats 18 per cent, and of mountain sheep 2 per cent, with decreases of 37 per cent in grizzlies, 86 per cent in caribou, and 15 per cent in moose. Unless more protection is afforded the grizzly other states will be in the class of California, where this wonderful animal is now extinct.

It is important that the national-forest wild-life resource have careful study, planning, and administration. The national forests constitute the largest and best big-game grounds in the country. They are maintained at public expense for the use and benefit of all the people. Unlike the private game preserves, they keep open for the everyday American opportunities for the enjoyment of sport and recreation which in European countries are restricted to the privileged few. They should be so administered as to combine a democratic system of use with scientific game propagation and management. This requires a coordination of federal and state action, based on a clear understanding of the problems involved, and a common purpose. Wherever through game production the principle of highest and fullest use of the national forests can be served, game-management plans are needed. \* \* \*

These statements from the heads of the Forest Service seem to indicate that it might be the policy indefinitely to increase the number of game animals, but in another place, the report says:

"Critical game-refuge situations due to overstocking exist in New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Arizona, and Wyoming, and similar situations in other states seem inevitable. It is hoped that remedial measures may be applicable before injury to the herds, range, and other resources become too serious.

(Continued to page 43)

## National Wool Marketing Prospects

**PRESIDENT HAGENBARTH** has recently been in the East in attendance at the annual meeting of the United States Chamber of Commerce and for a study of wool and general conditions in New York, Boston, and elsewhere. Under date of May 6 he wrote as follows:

It may be of some interest to wool growers generally to give them the results of my observations and a brief canvass of general conditions, as I see them, which may affect wool prices the coming season. I was somewhat surprised to find a general feeling of hostility in the National Chamber of Commerce against the operations of the Farm Board and the interference of government in business, generally. This feeling was quite pronounced and contrary to the general spirit of the National Chamber up to one year ago. The Chamber has usually, in the past, been a pronounced proponent of relief measures and helpfulness to government agencies or otherwise for the betterment of agriculture. At this session there was no pronounced sentiment of this kind. The general feeling seemed to be that agriculture should so revise its activities as to take care of itself and that particularly no government moneys should be directed toward helping the grower un-organized citizenship involved. This attitude, in my mind, emanates, no doubt, largely from the fact that industry, generally has suffered severe reverses during the past year and that the Chamber's judgment was somewhat clouded by reason of the almost universal hardships of its members.

In New York City I was gratified to see that women's woolen wear was largely displayed in the shape of dresses, sports goods and coatings in shops of all kinds. I learned that Macey and Company, one of the leading merchandising concerns in New York City, were installing a large department to be given over to the carrying and sale of women's piece material to be bought by the yard. Although these are usually lightweight cloths in the aggregate they will act for the consumption of a large amount of raw wool. Styles abroad, in Paris and London, are likewise tending toward the use of wool for women's wear. Some of the more advanced mills are making fancy lightweight patterns on the jazz order, which should prove most attractive to consumers.

In Boston there appears to have been since the beginning of the year, an increase in the consumption of wool at steady prices. The general feeling is that the jobbers and wholesalers, as well as the shelves of the retailers throughout the country, are unusually bare of supplies. There is no large accumulation of cloth at the mills. With

any return of purchasing power on the part of the public, under these conditions, it would seem that wool and wool fabrications are due for a mounting period of prosperity at least.

The western growers were, undoubtedly, disappointed, as were all dealers in wool, in 1930, in assuming that the bottom had been reached. Based on this theory, wools in certain sections were purchased by dealers at too high a price and over-advances were made by the National Wool Marketing Corporation as subsequently developed. The world, then, did not realize the depth and seriousness of the present depression along industrial and commercial lines.

At the present time the principal factor in the wool market, as usual, will be the grower himself. If he sells his wools this spring at the present low level prices being offered in the West, he will forfeit any opportunity to take advantage of any possible rise in prices that may subsequently occur. Some growers may be compelled, by financial necessity, to sacrifice their wools, but wherever possible conditions indicate this to be a consignment year. For years the growers have agitated and worked for the creation of a marketing agency of their own. We now have it in the National Wool Marketing Corporation and the question is "will the growers take advantage of the opportunity?" We have been prone to attach too much importance to certain minor mistakes that may have been made by the National Corporation during the first year of its existence. Many of us expected the Corporation to do the impossible and control foreign prices. All the National Corporation ever can do is to secure full value for the grower on the American market. The National Corporation is grower-owned and grower-controlled and in a position to formulate its own business policies. It has the best available selling agents. If the growers will support it, in a few years sufficient capital and reserves will be accumulated which will obviate the necessity of the Farm Board or any agency other than itself. There can be no question except as to the exact time, but that wool values are due for an advance in prices. When these advances take place, by controlling his own wools, the growers will obtain their full value.

The program for the future comprises, among other things, more expeditious and fuller information to the various cooperatives in the field and a policy of prompt returns and settlements on wools consigned, a more conservative, careful plan of wool advances. The sales policy the past year could not be improved upon. The Corporation wools have been sold at top prices, obtainable in the market and it will so continue.



## The Cyclical Nightmare

**L**ONG before the days of Adam Smith and even before the time of Christ, the law of supply and demand was in constant operation. When the supply of goods increased, or the demand fell off, the price declined. When goods were scarce and demand increased, prices rose. As these changes occurred at rather regular intervals, they were called cycles.

Business is always in one of these cycles—either going up or going down—it is seldom stationary. At the present time practically all business over the entire world is in a down cycle, due largely to a surplus of all the more important commodities. These surpluses are a direct result of the over-production of most business as a result of the boom following the war, which reached its apex in 1929. That year was the most prosperous one of which we have record. Reports indicate that in this regard it was probably 20 per cent above normal. It seems to represent an apex of prosperity. It was the top of a high cycle. From there we dropped to the bottom of a low cycle and we were not long in going down. The down cycle seems always to be much more abrupt than the up cycle.

The present depression makes past utterances rather amusing. Along in the days of Calvin Coolidge, when that lucky statesman was endorsing installment buying, a new school of economists developed who proceeded to put the cycles out of business. They reasoned that the cycle was unnecessary and uncivilized and could easily be disposed of by simple man-made arrangements. Their theory was that when we saw depression approaching, every one, including the government, was to speed up business—make more goods, sell more goods, spend more money.

For instance, under this new theory when the automobile manufacturer saw a surplus of cars ac-

cumulating and hard times coming, he was to enlarge his operations, employ men to build new plants and thus get ready for the boom, which was sure to follow. This plan, however, did not provide for any source from which the money was to come to meet such expansion. When the government saw depression coming, it was supposed to put all idle men to work by building roads, post offices, canals, and other public works. The state and city were to do likewise, and in this way, all idle men were to be given employment and over-night the depression would be gone. But this plan failed to make any provision for the money to carry it out. These activities by state and federal government meant an increase of taxes at a time when taxes should be reduced. They provided for an expansion of all business, including government, at a time when recession was essential.

A lot of great men subscribed to this new theory and many great publications heralded the coming of everlasting good times: the cycles had forever been eliminated. But what a rude awakening 1930 brought to the whole world. It proved that these great, high salaried captains of finance and captains of industry whom the magazines were touting, were mere figure heads riding on the crests of an up cycle and making a down cycle certain by their wild orgies of extravagant business methods. When the crash came they were as powerless to fight it as the charwomen who cleaned the office.

When the depression started, our good President called the great leaders of business and industry to Washington and arranged with them to spend billions for new developments and quickly bring back prosperity. These great men went home, and after consultation with their directors, reduced the working force, fired the cook, and cut down the wife's allowance for clothing.

That was the normal, logical, human thing to do. Money spent to artificially end a depression only prolongs it. If we spend money now that normally would have been spent in 1932, it means that 1932 will have just that much less prosperity. If enough of this goes on, 1932 will be a bad year.

To my mind cycles are necessary and can never be avoided. The Henry Ford theory that there can never be an over-supply of goods while men are employed is ridiculous. As long as a profit can be made from business, business will expand. Our power to create goods is fully ten times our power to consume them. Let us illustrate this with sheep. We produce in the entire world 2,700,000,000 pounds of clothing wool. We have in the United States 6,300,000 farms. If we had 53 sheep on each farm producing an average of eight pounds of wool, we would produce as much wool as is now produced in the entire world. Henry Ford could double his production of cars. The United States Steel Company could double its production. In fact, the only limit to production of most things is the ability to make a profit from their production. With the development of machine operation, consumption can never keep pace with production. If we deny the necessity for a down cycle, then we must admit that business can be made permanently profitable regardless of the amount of goods produced. Profit in an open market means increased production.

Cycles are not restricted to industry. Nature herself acts in cycles. Dry years are followed by a series of wet years. Diseases, plagues, even reproduction proceeds in cycles. Business always has and always will follow a cyclical career.

In 1928 and 1929 we made and sold the goods that should have been made in 1930 and 1931. We are now reaping the results.

S. W. McCLURE



# Feeding and Carcass Tests

U. S. Sheep Experiment Station Tests with Rambouillets, Corriedales,  
Hampshire-Rambouillets and Hampshire-Corriedales

LAMBS raised at the government station at Dubois, Idaho, and representing four different lines of breeding have been used in a four-year test of feeding and carcass qualities. The feeding tests were conducted at the Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station, Lafayette, Indiana, and are reported in this article by Professor Claude Harper. The carcasses were studied at the Beltsville, Md., station of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the results are reported by Messrs. L. D. Burk and D. A. Spencer.

## The Fattening Tests

FOR four years, beginning in 1925, the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station sent 100 lambs representing four different lines of breeding or crosses, raised by the station at Dubois, Idaho, to be fattened at the Agricultural Experiment Station at Purdue University. Each of the four yearly tests included 25 head from each breed or cross. They were delivered from Chicago after the fat lambs had been sorted out there, and arrived in September or early October.

### The Four Types of Lamb

It is our purpose to discuss here the type test from the standpoint of the cornbelt feeder and the feed lot only. The tests included the following types of lambs: straight Rambouillets, Corriedales, Hampshire-Rambouillet crossbreds (Hampshire rams and Rambouillet ewes), and Hampshire-Corriedale crossbreds (by Hampshire rams and out of Corriedale rams).

A four-year average shows that the Rambouillets cost \$13.53 per hundred pounds as feeders. The Corriedales cost \$14.31. The Hampshire-Rambouillet crossbreds cost an average of \$14.25 per hundred. Each year the Rambouillets showed the lowest original cost. They were always lowest in cost because they were never considered strictly choice feeding lambs. For the most part, they were called "good" feeding

lambs. Their angular appearance, peltiness, and folds about the neck kept them from being choice feeder lambs. They always appeared thrifty, although they were never as active as the lambs containing mutton blood.

In 1925-26 and in 1926-27 the Corriedales, Hampshire-Rambouillets and the Hampshire-Corriedales were valued at the same original cost. There was practically no difference in the feeder quality of these lambs. They were quite desirable in weights, blocky in appearance and smooth in pelt. In 1927-28 the Corriedale feeding lambs were valued at 50 cents a hundred above the crossbred lambs; and 75 cents a hundred above the Rambouillet lambs. They were an unusually thrifty bunch of

lambs, although slightly heavy in weight. Their appearance did not indicate that they were as heavy as they actually weighed. In the fall of 1927 the Hampshire-Rambouillet crossbreds were very heavy and the Hampshire-Corriedale crossbreds were comparatively light in weight but were valued the same as the Hampshire-Rambouillets because they lacked thriftiness. In the fall of 1928, the Corriedale lambs were valued at 25 cents per hundred below the crossbred lambs simply because they lacked the thriftiness that one likes to see in a feeder lamb. The Hampshire-Rambouillet lambs were always thrifty. Likewise, they were always heavy. In fact, every year they were criticized for being too large in frame and too heavy as feeding lambs. It was always impossible to get these lambs strictly fat at desirable market weights for fat lambs. They always weighed 95 pounds or more when in choice condition.

### Comparative Gains

The four-year average shows that the Hampshire-Rambouillet lambs made the largest daily gains, al-

#### AVERAGE RESULTS OF FOUR TESTS

	Lot 1 Rambouillet	Lot 2 Corriedale	Lot 3 Hampshire- Rambouillet	Lot 4 Hampshire Corriedale
Initial value .....	\$13.53	\$14.31	\$14.25	\$14.25
Average initial weight .....	68.16 lbs.	68.22 lbs.	71.63 lbs.	70.22 lbs.
Average final weight .....	90.80 "	92.50 "	96.41 "	94.73 "
Average gain .....	22.63 "	24.28 "	24.78 "	24.51 "
Average daily gain .....	.308 "	.330 "	.337 "	.333 "
Average daily feed:				
Concentrates .....	1.26 "	1.25 "	1.25 "	1.25 "
Corn silage .....	1.40 "	1.39 "	1.39 "	1.39 "
Clover hay .....	1.40 "	1.39 "	1.39 "	1.39 "
Feed per pound gain:				
Concentrates .....	4.09 "	3.80 "	3.72 "	3.76 "
Corn silage .....	4.53 "	4.21 "	4.12 "	4.17 "
Clover hay .....	4.53 "	4.21 "	4.13 "	4.17 "
Cost of 100 lbs. gain .....	\$11.40	\$10.58	\$10.36	\$10.48
Necessary selling price .....	13.00	13.32	13.26	13.26
Valuation in lots .....	12.63	13.19	13.00	13.13
(Chicago price less \$1.25)				
Profit or loss per lamb .....	— .33	— .15	— .26	— .13
Days on feed .....	73.5	73.5	73.5	73.5

though they were only slightly larger than the Corriedales and the Hampshire - Corriedale crossbreds. The Rambouillets made good gains, but every year except 1928-29 they stood at the bottom of the list in rate of gain. In 1928-29 the Corriedales made the lowest average daily gain of any of the four types of lambs. Their lack of thriftiness this year was no doubt partially responsible for this result. Furthermore, in 1928-29 the Rambouillets were the thriftiest, smoothest and blockiest group of Rambouillets fed

in any of the four years.

In the winter of 1925-26, the Corriedales made the largest daily gain of any of the four types of lambs. However, in each of the winters of 1926-27 and in 1927-28 and 1928-29 the Hampshire-Rambouillet lambs were first in rate of gain. The Hampshire-Corriedale crossbred lambs were never first in rate of gain, nor last, but they were always above the average and for the four years stood next to the Hampshire-Rambouillet crossbreds.

The four-year average shows that

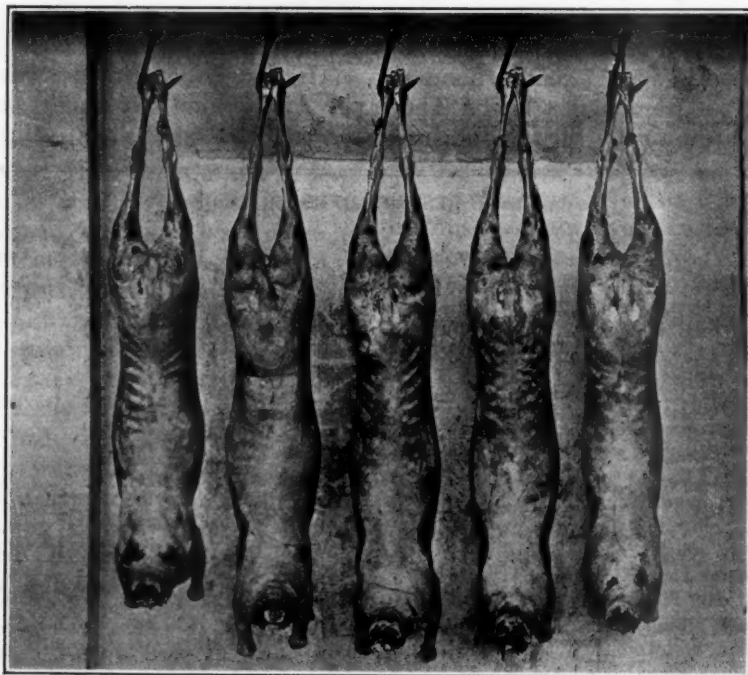
the cost of gain put on by the Hampshire-Rambouillet lambs cost \$10.36 per hundred pounds; the Hampshire-Corriedales \$10.48; the Corriedales \$10.58, and the Rambouillets cost \$11.40. In the winter of 1925-26 the Corriedales showed the lowest cost per hundred pounds gain and the Rambouillets the highest. In the winters of 1926-27 and 1927-28, the Hampshire-Rambouillets showed the lowest cost per hundred pounds gain and here again the Rambouillets were highest, but in 1928-29 the Rambouillets made the cheapest gains per hundred pounds while the Corriedales were highest. During these four years the Hampshire-Corriedale crossbreds were never first, nor last, in the cost of one hundred pounds gain, but they were always below the average of the various types.

#### Value of Types When Finished

In finish and valuations of the various lots at the close of the experiment, the Corriedale blood in both the high grades and the crossbreds was regarded with favor. It was not so much a question of fatness as the fact that these lambs always had a good finish and were usually lighter in weight than the Hampshire-Rambouillet crossbreds. Those who valued the lambs always criticized the Hampshire-Rambouillets for being heavy in weight and slightly coarse. They never criticized their fatness. The Rambouillets were never quite so fat as the other groups nor quite so uniform in their finish, and the fact that they were always slightly pelted reduced the valuations on this group. The average valuation for the four years shows that the finished Corriedale lambs were valued at \$13.19 per hundred, the Hampshire-Corriedale crossbreds at \$13.13, the Hampshire-Rambouillets at \$13.00, and the Rambouillets at \$12.63. The Rambouillets were valued lowest at the close, and they likewise cost less at the beginning. In three of the four years, the cost exceeded the returns on all four types of lambs. In 1928-29 a good profit was obtained from all four



Representative Rambouillet Lambs Used in the Experiment.



Carcasses from Rambouillet Lambs. From Left to Right, These Carcasses Were Graded 2+, 2, 2, 2+, 2-.

groups. A four-year average shows that the lambs of Corriedale blood lost slightly less money than those of Rambouillet blood. There is so little difference, however, in the various types that one is not justified in emphasizing great differences in these types.

In consideration of the original cost, rate of gains, cost per hundred pounds gain, finish and financial returns, the Hampshire-Corriedale crossbreds had a slight advantage over the other types. This advantage, however, is not outstanding.

Were it possible to make definite statements as to what, when, where and how to buy feeding lambs, that could be followed in all seasons and under all conditions, the information would be of inestimable value. Experienced feeders understand, however, that such statements must be qualified by many exceptions.

The discussion herein pertains to a comparison of four types of western feeding lambs for fattening purposes. No attempt is made to give rules for the guidance of buyers relative to these four types, but rather to discuss their relative efficiency in the feed lot under corn-belt conditions. A four-year average shows no strong contrasts in these four types which were purebred Rambouillets, very high-grade Corriedales, Hampshire-Rambouillet crossbreds and Hampshire-Corriedale crossbreds. In comparing the relative gains, feed consumption, cost of 100 pounds gain and profit or loss, one finds no outstanding differences in a four-year average.

The margin between the buying price and the selling values in 1925-26, 1926-27 and in 1927-28 was not sufficient to show a profit in these feeding periods of any one of the four types. In 1928-29 all four types showed a nice profit because the selling value that year was considerably higher than the purchase price.

## II The Carcass Tests

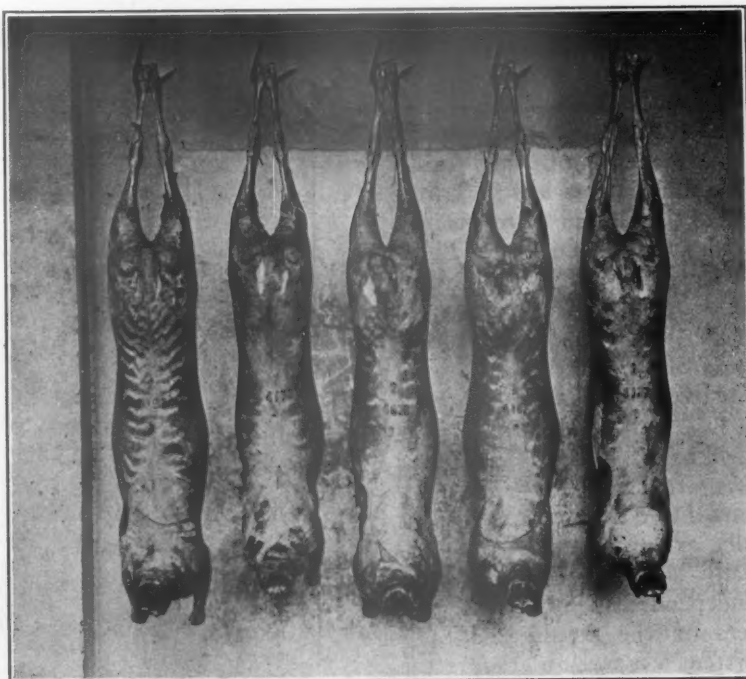
THE lambs used in the fattening experiments reported by Mr. Harper were shipped from Purdue University to the U. S. Animal Husbandry Experiment Farm at Beltsville, Md. They were graded before slaughtering by a committee consisting of one member from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and two from the Bureau of Animal Industry.

This work was a part of the

national project, "Cooperative Meat Investigations" formerly designated as "A Study of the Factors Which Influence the Quality and Palatability of Meat." This grading was done to give as nearly as possible the market grade of the live lambs and their carcasses. They were all produced in the same band of sheep at the United States Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho, and fattened at Purdue University Experiment Station, Lafayette, Indiana, on a ration of corn 7 parts, cottonseed meal 1 part, corn silage and clover



Representative Corriedale Lambs Used in the Experiment.



Carcasses from Corriedale Lambs. From Left to Right They Were Graded 1—, 1—, 2+, 2+, 2.



hay. The only designated difference in these lambs was their breeding or type.

There were 99 Rambouillets, 100 Corriedales, 100 Hampshire-Rambouillet crossbreds and 99 Hampshire-Corriedale crossbreds. One quarter of the lambs of each of these types were fed each winter for four consecutive winters from 1925-26 to 1928-29. The average feeding period for the four different winters was 73.5 days. This length of feeding period was determined largely by the time required for the lambs to reach a degree of finish accept-

of the grades which had been placed on the live lambs. The average of the grades recorded by the three members of the committee was taken as the official grade of an individual lamb and carcass.

In the system of grading used in this experiment, grade is based on conformation or shape, finish or fatness, and quality. Six grades are recognized, namely, No. A1 or Prime, No. 1 or Choice, No. 2 or Good, No. 3 or Medium, No. 4 or Common and No. 5 or Cull. The range of merit for each grade is the same and the grades step down by regular

gradations from Prime to Cull. Lambs with very wide, deep, smooth, thick-fleshed bodies that are very well finished are graded Prime or No. A1, and those with extremely narrow, shallow, angular, emaciated bodies as Cull or No. 5. Between these two extremes are the Choice, Good, Medium, and Common grades. The real basis of grading live animals is the carcass because that represents the completed result of the efforts of all who have had a part in the production process.

In the record of the carcass grading of the four lots, both the average grade and the number of carcasses of each grade in each lot are shown in the table.

The average grade of the carcasses of Lot 1 (Rambouillet) is 2 minus, or low Good; and that of Lot 2 (Corriedale) 2 or Good; that of Lot 3 (Hampshire-Rambouillet crossbreds) is also 2 or Good, and that of Lot 4 (Hampshire-Corriedale crossbreds) is also 2. These averages, however, include carcasses of several grades. For example, in Lot 1, there were 2 Choice grade carcasses, 63 Good, 32 Medium, and 2 Common. In Lot 2 there were 25 Choice, 71 Good, and 4 Medium.

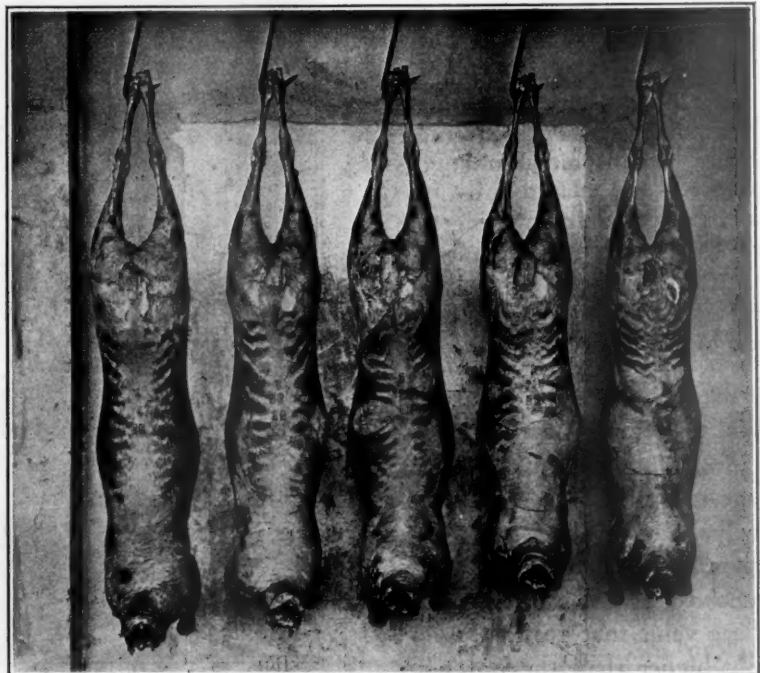


Hampshire-Rambouillet Crossbred Lambs Used in the Experiment.

able to packer buyers. The feeding period was 60 days in 1925-26, 84 days in 1926-27, 70 days in 1927-28, and 80 days in 1928-29.

As soon as these lambs were finished in the Purdue feed lots they were shipped to the United States Animal Husbandry Experiment Farm, Beltsville, Maryland, where they were graded, slaughtered, and the carcasses graded. The grading committee, consisting of three members, graded both the live lambs and the carcasses.

The live lambs were graded immediately before slaughter, and their carcasses after approximately two days in the cooler. Each grader carefully examined every lamb individually and recorded his judgment independently of the other two members of the committee. The same system was used in grading the carcasses. When grading the carcasses the graders had no knowledge



Carcasses from Hampshire-Rambouillet Crossbred Lambs. From Left to Right They Were Graded 1—, 1—, 2, 2, 2.



## NUMBER OF SLAUGHTER LAMBS AND THEIR CARCASSES BY GRADES

Lors	LIVE LAMBS				CARCASSES			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
GRADES								
No. 1 or Choice.....	1	9	15	18	2	25	14	20
No. 2 or Good.....	64	70	78	76	63	71	80	76
No. 3 or Medium.....	34	21	7	5	32	4	6	2
No. 4 or Common.....	—	—	—	—	2			1
Average .....	2-	2	2	2	2-	2	2	2
	(Low)	(Good)	(Good)	(Good)	(Low)	(Good)	(Good)	(Good)
	(Good)				(Good)			

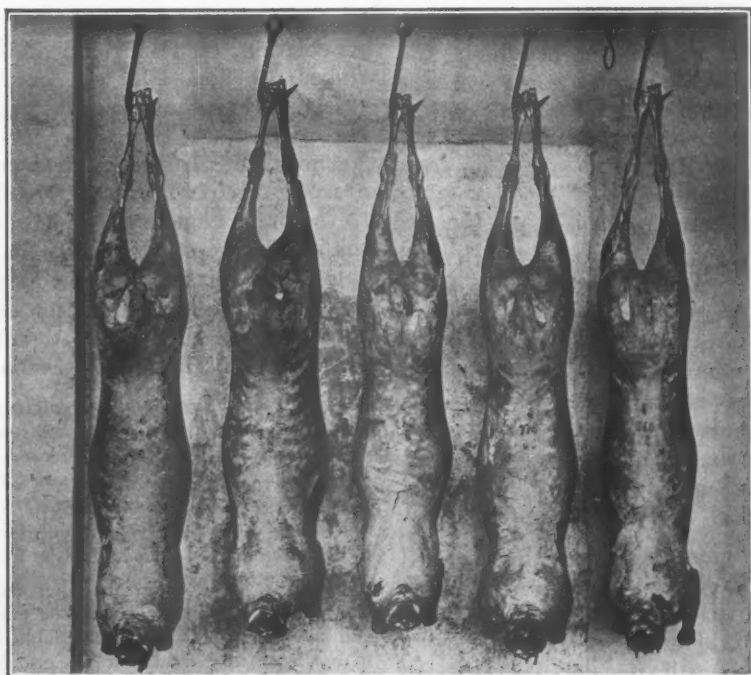
In other words, Lot 2 contained 23 more Choice, 8 more Good, 28 fewer Medium and 2 less of the Common grade carcasses than did Lot 1. This shows that while approximately two-thirds of the carcasses of each lot graded Good, the 25 Choice in Lot 2 and the 32 Medium and 2 Common in Lot 1 were sufficient to make a difference of one-third of a grade between the averages of these two lots.

A comparison of Lot 3 (Hampshire-Rambouillet crossbreds) with Lot 1 (Rambouillet) shows results which are somewhat similar to a comparison of Lots 1 and 2. In Lot 3, however, the number of Choice grade carcasses was smaller and the number in the Good grade carcasses

larger than in Lot 2. There were 14 Choice, 80 Good, and 6 Medium grade carcasses in Lot 3. In other words, Lot 3 had 12 more Choice,



Hampshire-Corriedale Crossbred Lambs Used in the Experiment.



Carcasses from Hampshire-Corriedale Crossbred Lambs. From Left to Right, They Were Graded 1—, 1—, 2+, 2, 2.

17 more Good, and 26 fewer Medium grade carcasses than Lot 1. This variation was sufficient to make Lot 3 also average one-third grade higher than Lot 1. The average grade of the carcasses in Lot 3 was slightly lower than that of Lot 2, but the two averages were so nearly alike that both fell in the same one-third of a grade.

The average grade of the carcasses of Lot 4 (Hampshire-Corriedale crossbreds) was the same as for Lots 2 and 3. In Lot 4 there were 20 Choice, 76 Good, 2 Medium and 1 Common grade carcasses. Lot 4

included 18 more of the Choice, 13 more Good, 30 fewer Medium, and 1 less of the Common grade carcasses than Lot 1. Compared with Lots 2 and 3, Lot 4 averaged slightly lower in grade than Lot 2 and slightly higher than Lot 3.

Although the differences in carcass grade expressed in lot averages are relatively small, the large number of Choice and small number of Medium grade carcasses in Lots 2, 3 and 4 show these three lots to be very similar and they each average one-third of a grade higher than Lot 1.

In comparing the live grades with the carcass grades it is shown that the average of the lots are the same. The grades within each lot, however, indicate that there was a slight change with a small percentage of the lambs in each lot.

## Farm Philosophy Favors Sheep

THERE seems to be no getting out of the sheep business anywhere in the farm states. This is not a sheep depression only, but a general depression that has cut into every farm enterprise on pretty much the same uniform scale. Notwithstanding the howling and groaning in the air, there is a good deal of sound fortitude behind rural people who at heart are farmers and bound to stay put.

The changeable and the enthusiastic have exploited the sundry farm industries that seemed to pull the easiest and the surest ready money. Hosts of farmers this winter have been putting milk on the stand daily at 10 cents a gallon; eggs took such a spectacular sag that to date hatcheries have reported around half of their regular seasonal orders; vegetable gardening is getting busily into a scale of cow feed production; wheat is a notorious situation; hay is dull and low even under drought conditions.

Export lard is not what it once was; cooking oils have come to stay. Winter hog movements have been heavy and the price stubborn. Summer hog prices are probably the best moderate bet just now, but in the end and as a long-time venture the strongest highback mortgage lifter won't stand a gross overload. Beef cattle have slight attraction and ventures in this line have such a slow pickup that they have a way of getting to the goal post in unfortunate and disappointing time.

In fact just now it looks as if there is no high-powered derrick whatsoever to pull the farmer out of his ditch. It seems as if he were inclined to fuss around and pry his "boat" out of the mire with the tools at hand. He has seen a big show lately, but he has been rapidly waking up and coming to the sober conclusion that the last reel is off the screen and that entertainment of its equal is not going to be seen

again for many, many months, most likely never—never!

Tractorization and wholesale production are nicely sustained so long as the money returns are forthcoming—but when these returns collapse the brave driver, the feverish producer is liable to get the "to-hell-with-it" conviction and come to the conclusion that grandfather's equanimity was not so dull and stupid after all. Farmers who are not hounded and crowded by immaturely assumed obligations seem inclined in noticeable numbers to retrench in the matter of high speed commercializing of their farming activities.

Thirty and forty years ago parasites incident to the use of old permanent pastures had a way of compelling even experienced sheepmen out of the industry. The plow has helped this condition and a workable regime of stomach worm control on the farm has done a lot towards making sheep raising comparatively safe. Possible tariff upset is a thunder head that might be devastating, but it would be a nation-wide calamity that the farm states grower might weather as well or better than his large competitors in the market.

With the better breeding and better feeding now going on the native lamb is not as mean a culprit as he once was. The lamb market is in the East and so is the farm states sheep raiser. A more satisfactory system of wool marketing is at hand, gaining ground yearly and without much doubt is here to stay. Boys' sheep clubs are bound to savor some of experiment, but in the end they manufacture an appreciable number of safe young sheepmen though dad may have lost the sheep knack that grand-dad used to manufacture more land to join to what he had.

The glorious pride of high priced land has received a mortal blow. Farms that a dozen years ago were too proud and too valuable for a sheep to walk on are back to earth again, back to mother mud! For

years labor shunned the farm and what could be had was well-nigh unbuyable, possibly unkeepable at that! Farmers in large numbers had to hoe their own row—and driven to it a lot of them got the habit—and now would have to be converted all over again to the way of having a hired man around. Sheep fit in, a passive manageable farm laborer.

And how desperately hard it became for several years to buy feeder lambs at a price that seemed safe—an uneasy berth, however nice the waking was some springs. Then the inevitable crash, the sore, so-sore head and the banker to square with! Hundreds of ewes are sticking their heads into those feed racks this minute.

Sheep population is headed right on up, up! It is acquiring dairy-cow speed, hen volume! Nevertheless around here there is a buyer right at hand for any flock offered and the younger they are the stiffer is the bidding, not lofty of course, but right on the market.

Delaware, Ohio. G. P. WILLIAMS

## Nevada's New Range Law

THE last annual convention of the Nevada Land and Live Stock Association, held in Reno on December 19 and 20, was occupied chiefly with a consideration of grazing matters. At that time Secretary Vernon Metcalf presented a rough draft of a range law to be presented to the State Legislature at its session the early part of this year. Favorable action was taken on the measure by both branches of the legislative body and the following law is now a part of the statutes of Nevada:

*An Act relating to and regulating the grazing of livestock on public lands of the United States in the State of Nevada, protecting customary grazing uses thereon, making certain acts unlawful, and prescribing penalties and liabilities for violations of the act.*

Whereas, it is of great importance to the State of Nevada to secure the peaceful and most economical use of the public lands in the State of Nevada for the grazing of livestock; and

Whereas, unrestricted and unregulated

grazing of such lands results in an injurious and uneconomical use thereof, as well as in controversies that often lead to breaches of the peace, all of which is detrimental to the public interest; and

Whereas, the most economical grazing use of said lands, the conservation of the livestock feed thereon and the preservation of the peace can best be secured by protecting the grazing uses established by customs based on the experience of the graziers;

Now, Therefore, the people of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. It shall be unlawful to graze livestock on any part of the unreserved and unappropriated public lands of the United States in the State of Nevada, when such grazing will or does prevent, restrict or interfere with the customary use of such land for grazing livestock by any person who, by himself or his grantors or predecessors, shall have become established, either exclusively or in common with others, in the grazing use of such lands under and in accordance with the customs of the graziers of the region involved; provided that this action shall not prohibit the grazing on any part of such public lands of livestock owned, kept or used for work or milking purposes by any ranch owner or bona fide settler, for his domestic use, as distinguished from commercial use, nor prohibit the grazing on such public lands of any livestock necessary for and used in connection with any mining or construction work or other lawful work of similar character.

Customary or established use as graziers, otherwise than under the operation of law, as herein used shall be deemed to include the continuous, open, notorious, peaceable and public use of such range seasonally for a period of five years or longer immediately prior to the approval of this act by the person or his grantors and/or predecessors in interest except in cases where initiated without protest or conflict to prior use or occupancy thereof. It is further provided that any change in such customary use so established shall not be made hereafter so as to prevent, restrict or interfere with the customary or established use of any other person or persons.

Section 2. This act shall not be construed to prohibit any such established user from continuing his grazing use, as established in accordance with such customs.

Section 3. Any person violating any of the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; and independently of the foregoing penalty, shall be liable to any person injured for all damages sustained by reason of such violation, and for such exemplary damages as the circumstances may warrant.

Section 4. The violation of any provi-

sion of this act may be restrained by injunction, issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, pursuant to the provisions of law and principles of equity relating to injunctions.

Section 5. The word "person" as used in this act includes individuals, companies, partnerships and associations.

Section 6. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit free transit over and rights in the public domain where such are provided by the acts of Congress.

Section 7. This act shall be deemed an

exercise of the police power of the state, for the protection of the economic welfare and peace of the people of the state, and all of its provisions shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of its purposes, and nothing in this act shall be construed, as amending or repealing existing law regarding the grazing use of the public lands or of water for the purpose of watering livestock or as modifying or compromising any valid rights or priorities as may exist therein at the time of its enactment.

Section 8. This act shall take effect upon its passage and approval.

## Sorting Montana Lambs

MONTANA sheepmen who have access to high mountain ranges produce from 10 to 75 per cent milk-fat lambs ready for market in July or August. In years of good feeder demand most of these lambs have not been sorted and shipped to market but the entire wether lamb crop was usually contracted for and sold to commission men, speculators and feeders, (sometimes before the lambing season started), for delivery during September and October. Many of the lambs which are milk-fat in July and August lose their "bloom" as the range dries up and grow up into oversized "horsey" feeders objected to by feeders, and in years of low prices, docked severely.

A casual review of the Chicago markets for fat lambs from year to year shows that prices usually fall from month to month from April to October and then begin to rise in November. Thus July prices are usually higher than August, and August prices are usually higher than September. In years of good prices there is little or no spread of fat lambs over feeders in the early fall, but in years of depression fat lambs usually sell higher than feeder lambs during the summer months.

These facts were considered by the management of the Montana Wool Growers Association during the summer of 1930 and through the cooperation of the Producers Commission Association of Chicago, an experienced sheep salesman from the Chicago market was plac-

ed in Montana to help sort lambs. This move was considered necessary as only a very few men in the state had had experience enough in sorting to handle the work in an efficient manner.

The Montana Wool Growers Association was very active in a publicity campaign and in cooperation with the Montana Lamb Marketing Association (a new organization later absorbed by the Intermountain Livestock Marketing Association) succeeded in getting a large number of sheepmen interested in sorting their lambs and shipping the fat end for the eastern markets.

The first year's operation proved that the idea was practical and profitable from many standpoints. Mr. C. C. Conser of the Agricultural Economics Department of Montana State College secured account sales on a number of shipments of fat lambs in August and September. The following table tells the story:

Shipment of Fat Lambs from  
Montana to Chicago

	August Shipments	September Shipments
Number of Lambs.....	5057	2406
Average Weight (lbs.)..	71	77
Net price to Grower (per cwt.).....	\$7.02	\$5.97
Net return per Lamb..	\$4.98	\$4.59

On the basis of the above figures and loading 275 lambs per car, the growers received \$107.25 more per car by shipping in August than waiting until September. From these figures it can easily be seen



that the sheepman who sorted his lambs and loaded them at an expense of \$25.00 per car, made money. The \$7.02 figure shown above as the net price to the grower, is the price per hundred pounds on market weight after shipping and selling expenses were deducted, but without considering shrinkage.

In addition to this feature it is certain that if larger numbers of lambs are marketed during the summer months the number of lambs which go to feed lots in the fall will be less and the total tonnage will be reduced due to the lighter weight of milk-fat lambs compared to the big feeder lambs which must be fattened in feed lots before slaughter. These advantages can hardly be expressed in dollars and cents but nevertheless they are steps in the direction of orderly marketing.

As a project worthy of continuation the first year's results are encouraging. It is true that where only 10 per cent of the lambs grade as fat lambs, it may not be profitable to do sorting in this way. Every producer must consider his own case and if he can sort without too great an expense, it will help everybody connected with the sheep business.

LOUIS VINKE

### Sheep Production in California

"THE most important factor contributing to profitable sheep production is the number of lambs raised per hundred breeding ewes. The second important factor is the average weight of lambs sold." These two sentences are found on the last page of Circular No. 49, published by the California Agricultural Extension Service. The circular was written by Professor Robert F. Miller and is in general a discussion of practical methods of successful sheep husbandry on farm and range.

Unfortunately, many sheepmen and farmers do not appreciate the significance of the statements quoted above. The ideas may be stated in

another way by saying that so far as the flock itself is concerned the receipts depend upon the pounds of lamb and wool produced per ewe. These represent the products of the flock regardless of price conditions, and a group of ewes raising a high percentage of lambs to market weights and at the same time producing heavy fleeces of good quality is the first aim of a wise sheepman. With such a flock he is able to withstand the dips and enjoy the rises of see-saw market prices. In other words, as Professor Miller points out, efficient production is always important.

The circular is devoted in large part to a discussion of methods of management that contributes to success. Attention is called to the sections of the state most generally suited to sheep raising and the author is compelled by his honesty to admit that there are some handicaps to sheep even under California's ideal climatic conditions (existing in the minds of all citizens of the state). The leading breeds are briefly discussed. If there is any criticism to be made against the publication it is in regard to the breed illustrations. Here the author followed the usual custom of using photographs of leading prize winners taken when on exhibition. These are the easiest pictures to obtain and unfortunately are the least representative and the most misleading.

The following quoted paragraphs from various parts of the circular may be considered as representing the character of the publication. It is worthy of study.

"There is an old saying among stockmen, 'To keep the feed a little better than the stock.' This applies particularly in the finishing of spring lambs which are being forced to early maturity and finished for market on green feed and mother's milk. An ample milk flow for the lambs is the first essential which can best be produced by good pasture.

"In order to provide these ideal conditions some sheepmen operating in fenced enclosures have found it very advantageous to divide certain

large pastures into four parts by means of cross-fencing. The ewes and lambs are turned into one pasture for two days, then changed to the next pasture for two days, etc., cropping each pasture only two days out of every eight. This practice is known as rotation grazing and insures a fresh feed supply for the ewes and lambs at all times. The lambs develop more rapidly, attain a heavier weight, and a larger number of sheep can be grazed on a given area.

"Many people have become over-enthusiastic about the profits in sheep raising, due to the fact that the market price for lambs and wool has been very favorable during the last five years. Seasonal rainfall has provided natural feed, sheepmen have specialized in producing early lambs of good quality, and large numbers of spring lambs have been exported to eastern markets where high prices have prevailed.

"On the other hand, the average layman is not familiar with the financial status of the sheep business, the many items of cost and the general overhead, and anyone contemplating an investment in sheep should make a careful study of the expenditures and receipts over a period of years. \* \* \*

"Extensive cost of production studies have not been made in California; although, in a yearly study (January 1, 1928 to January 1, 1929) by Mr. Donald Smith, Farm Advisor of Tehama County, including eight flocks, it was shown that the yearly cost was \$7.88 per breeding ewe, the income was \$10.84, yielding a net return of \$2.96 on an average sale price of 10.76 cents per pound for lambs and 33.4 cents per pound for wool.

In this study it was found that feed constituted 40.5 per cent; labor 33.9 per cent, and all other items, 25.6 per cent of the total cost.

Wool contributed 31.4 per cent; sale of lambs and other stock, 67.9 per cent, and miscellaneous items, 0.7 per cent of the gross income."

W. G. Kammlade



# Around the Range Country

THE notes on weather conditions appearing under the names of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications of that bureau for the month of April.

## Wyoming

Warm, dry weather prevailed until the closing decade, when it was about the coldest of record for April, with abundant precipitation. Livestock underwent some shrinkages but without serious losses. Ranges were improved materially by the moisture, and were checked only temporarily by the cold snap; but moisture is still needed over the northwestern portion. Shearing had begun, but was suspended during the cold spell, with few losses. Generally livestock are in good shape.

### Savagetown

April brought us ideal weather, but we have had insufficient moisture, and there is no water on the ranges.

Lambing has not started yet. We have about the same number of ewes to lamb as a year ago. More ewe lambs were held over last fall which has increased the number of yearlings over that of a year ago.

Growers are talking ten cents with board for shearing.

There are no public lands here. All of them are privately owned range lands.

Most of the growers around here are in favor of the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

BOZWELL D. MOORE

## Montana

This was a cold, backward spring month, and grass on the range is rather slow. Feed supplies are getting short in places but will hold

out everywhere, as the range is making some feed in places already. Livestock have averaged from fair to good, having suffered some record breaking cold weather and severe snowstorms during the latter part of the month. Despite the stormy weather, precipitation has been light, and soil moisture supplies are exceptionally low in some sections. Some lambing and shearing are reported, with good results generally.

### Plains

Due to drought and heavy frosts, there is no feed on the range at this time, (April 28).

Lambing is under way with about the usual yield from practically the same number of ewes as were lamb-ed a year ago. The number of yearling ewes in this district is about 50 per cent short of what it was in 1930.

All of the wool grown in this section is pooled and shipped to the Co-op. I have not heard of any sales of wool to dealers. All of the growers here are strong for the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

There are no open government lands in this section. I would not be favorable to having such land placed under the supervision of the United States Forest Service.

DEAN & WEAVER

### Hardin

We have had a very bad spring in this part of Montana; I believe, the driest I have ever seen in the forty years I have been here. We have had three pretty dry years, and for the last eighteen months, we have had hardly any moisture. There is very little grass, and what there is is not growing well. Unless we get moisture before long, and lots of it, it is going to be a tough proposition for the stockmen this season.

Lambing started the 25th of April, and with the drought it has been a difficult job so far.

G. F. CORWIN

### Deer Lodge

Feed is good but very dry, (April 29).

Lambing is under way with better than average crops. Drop bands are about the same size as in 1930. I do not believe we have quite so many yearling ewes as we had a year ago.

There have been no sales of ewes or contracts around here so far as I know. Some early sales of wool in the Bitter Root section have been made at 17 cents a pound. I do not know the grade and shrinkage of this wool.

Ten cents is the shearing rate. This includes board while the shearers are at the plant, usually whether they are working or not.

I think most of the wool growers of this district are in favor of the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

V. G. STAMBAUGH

## Oregon

This was a fairly good month for livestock. Moisture was generally ample for pastures and ranges, and it was warm enough for everything except alfalfa and clover. However, in the last week drying winds persisted so long the soils were thoroughly dried out, and most vegetation is again in need of a good rain. The growth of hay and pasturage was checked by the winds. Lambing and shearing have continued, under mostly favorable conditions and the movement of sheep to ranges is still under way.

## Idaho

Cold nights, and stormy weather have made a backward spring, two weeks behind in northern counties. But livestock and ranges are in fairly good shape in most sections, making satisfactory advances. Soil moisture is none too plentiful, having been badly depleted by windy weather with low humidities. Cattle

and sheep will soon be ready to move onto the open range in the south-eastern portion; range feed is ample in all sections.

### Guyaz

Weather conditions are normal, and feed on the ranges good. We went through the winter with very small losses and a smaller feed bill than in 1930. We have no winter range so have to feed our sheep during the winter.

There are about one-third more ewes to lamb this spring than a year ago.

CHARLES FREEMAN

### Washington

The severe winds of the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd which visited northern Idaho and much of Oregon, swept Washington also, drying out the soils badly and leaving the state in need of rains, especially east of the Cascades. However, pastures and ranges have done pretty well, and livestock as a rule are in satisfactory condition. It has been too cold at night for the best growth of grasses.

### Nevada

Mild weather prevailed, with occasional showers of rain or snow, which was favorable for spring ranges, and not especially hard at any time on livestock. Cattle went to the range early, and sheep shearing progressed rapidly, with but little interruption due to weather conditions. Some lambing flocks were caught in a snowstorm late in the month, but it was not serious, because rather mild and of short duration. Only a few losses occurred. The lambing of shorn sheep is now more than half done.

### Utah

While the nights persisted rather cool the average temperature was comparatively mild, and the precipitation close to normal in important

sections, furnishing the moisture needed immediately. Spring ranges are coming on satisfactorily, and livestock are making slow but steady gains. Sheep are mostly shorn, and on the way to lambing grounds and summer pastures are largely in splendid condition. A light wool crop was secured in some corrals. Copious rains are generally needed.

### Venice

It has been very dry during the last few weeks here, and now, (April 9), feed is only fair.

We haven't commenced to lamb yet, but our ewe bands are about the same size as in 1930.

Ten to twelve cents is being paid shearers, without board.

The Wool Corporation is receiving some criticism because last year's sales were in some cases below the dealers' early prices.

GEORGE BRUGGER

### Colorado

Seasonal or above temperatures were fine for livestock and ranges the first three weeks, but moisture was deficient in most sections especially east of the Divide. The last week was exceptionally cold and stormy, except that precipitation was much lighter in the Arkansas Valley. The storms delayed sheep shearing, and some losses among shorn and lambing flocks were reported, west of the Divide. Some losses of other livestock occurred east of the Divide during the last week. On the whole, however, livestock are in fairly good shape.

### Denver

In eastern Colorado there was one bad storm during March, but feed is plentiful at this time, (April 6).

Very few ewe lambs were kept back in this part of Colorado last fall, so there is no increase in the number of yearlings held by sheepmen. Lambing commences about May 10 with about the same number of ewes in the bands as last spring.

Some sales of ewes have been made at \$5.75 for range ewes, three to six years, and \$6.50 for unshorn yearling ewes. The wool from one car of feed lot lambs was recently sold here at 16¼ cents per pound. This was a mixed car of lambs, and the clip was made up of New Mexico fine and Wyoming crossbred wool.

The regular rate for shearing is 10 cents a head without board.

Eastern Colorado shippers are 90 per cent for the National Wool Marketing Corporation. There is no public land trouble here.

In my opinion, each state should handle its own lamb campaign to increase consumption.

R. P. FULLER

### New Mexico

Pastures and ranges are mostly good, and livestock fair to good, the weather having been moderately cool, with enough precipitation in nearly all sections at the close of the month. Some thin cattle failed to survive the cold snap at the end of the month in the far northern portion. Alfalfa is making a good start.

### California

Warm weather prevailed most of the month, with much sunshiny weather, and only a few moderate showers. A few heavy showers occurred in the last week. A few stations reported maximum temperatures, the highest of record about the 21st. The high ranges were benefited by the rains, but low ranges were already too dry in many counties to be revived by the rains that came. In the more northerly and higher counties livestock and ranges are doing well. An excellent alfalfa crop is being cut at Brawley.

### Skaggs Springs

Hot weather had started to dry up the feed, but rain came in time to make it excellent, (April 27).

Lambing is all over here, crop

averaging 20 per cent larger than in 1930. I believe that there were about 5 per cent more ewes lambled than in the previous season. The bands of yearling ewes are about the same size as they were in 1930.

An offer of 17 cents per pound has been made for fine combing wool in this section, estimated to shrink about 65 per cent.

Ten cents and board is the price being paid for shearing.

Some growers are disappointed over not having received final settlements on last year's consignments to the Corporation.

T. F. BAXTER, JR.

### Arizona

It was a cold, dry month until the closing week when general showers occurred. Daytime temperatures had been up for a couple of weeks also, making very good range growing weather by the end of the month. Livestock conditions were fair to good, but have improved with the late rains. The more elevated sections, especially, were well watered by the recent rains, except at the Grand Canyon station, where rains were light. Water for livestock is still need in some sections.

#### Thatcher

So far as weather and stock feed are concerned, conditions here during March and April have been the best in many years.

Lambing has started with an average yield. There are about the same number of ewes to be lambled. We have more yearling ewes, however, than in 1930.

I have not heard of any sales or contracts for ewes of any kind recently.

We haven't commenced to shear yet, but I understand that ten cents and board will be the rate for this work this season.

We are going to consign our wool to the Co-op. The attitude of most of the growers in this section is favorable toward the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

We are convinced that a nationwide advertising lamb campaign should be carried on.

MARION LEE

### Western Texas

Range and livestock conditions have been fair to good, mild weather having favored the growth of forage and moisture being ample in most sections. Heavy rains occurred in the last week. Livestock and range conditions are from good to excellent.

#### Copperas Cove

It has been very cold for this time of the year, (April 28). There has not been much rain.

Lambing percentages are a little higher than last year. There was a slight increase in the number of ewes lambled over that of 1930. We also have a few more yearling ewes than we had one year ago.

I have heard of no sales of yearling ewes. From 15½ to 16 cents has been paid for Delaine and Rambouillet wools which shrink about 60 per cent.

We have no receiving or branch house here to talk up the National Wool Marketing Corporation, and at present, the growers are a little shy of it.

J. M. BROOKS

#### Eldorado

We had a very good winter here, and at the present time, (April 4), weather and feed conditions are very good.

Lambing is now in progress. There are 10 per cent more ewes to be lambled than in 1930. We also estimate that we have about 15 per cent more yearling ewes than we had a year ago.

Some range ewe bands have changed hands at \$4.00 a head; yearling ewes with the wool on at \$5.00 per head, and yearling ewes with delivery to be made after shearing have been contracted at \$3.50 a head. Wools estimated to shrink around 62 per cent have been sold here recently at 20 cents a pound.

The price being paid for shearing sheep here is about 9 cents, including board. The shearers are usually paid board while they are at the plant, even if they are not working.

There is some uneasiness over the results of the Wool Corporation's working on a declining market last year.

GEORGE WILLIAMS

#### Clifton

April brought us splendid weather and good feed.

About 50 per cent of the wool growers here are lined up with the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

Some individual growers have sold their clips to wool dealers at prices ranging from 13 to 17 cents a pound, shrinkage being from 60 to 63 per cent. So far as I know, there have been no sales or contracts made for yearling ewes to be delivered after shearing.

The number of lambs dropped so far is about 5 per cent greater than last year. There are about 3 per cent more yearling ewes in this district than there were in 1930.

F. K. BRADSTREET

#### San Angelo

We have had extra good weather and feed conditions during April.

Lambing is about finished with a larger yield than 1930. There were equally as many ewes to be lambled this year as one year ago; not so many yearling ewes on hand, however.

Contracts are being made for yearling ewes delivered after shearing at \$3.00 to \$3.50 per head.

Fine wool of good grade and staple, and of minimum shrinkage, is being taken by dealers at 18 to 22 cents a pound. However, a larger per cent of the growers here are sending their wool to the Co-op this year.

Shearing is being done at 8 and 10 cents a head, according to the size of the flock. The shearers are boarding themselves.

C. A. BROOME

(Continued to page 46)



## Lincoln County, Wyoming, Growers Meet

**B. J. CAROLLO**, Rock Springs banker, was unanimously elected to the presidency of the Lincoln County Wool Growers Association at its twenty-fifth annual convention held in Kemmerer on April 17 and 18. Mr. Carollo succeeds J. D. Noblitt of Cokeville, who held the office for thirteen years. Mr. Noblitt recently sold his sheep outfit and is spending most of his time in Ogden. L. K. Olson of Cokeville was elected vice president, and directors named are J. D. Noblitt, chairman; J. H. Stoner, Ed Blaney and William Mau.

Wool marketing was discussed by James A. Hooper, vice president of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, who explained the work of that corporation and satisfactorily answered numerous questions regarding appraisals and advances.

The Secretary of the National Wool Growers Association spoke on general economic conditions in relation to sheep raising and outlined the plan of financing and carrying on the national campaign for increasing lamb consumption.

The other speakers included Ernest Winkler, chief of grazing in the Ogden office of the United States Forest Service; Professor A. F. Vass of the University of Wyoming; A. S. Hamm of the Biological Survey; C. E. Favre, supervisor of the Wyoming National Forest; S. B. Murray, county agricultural agent; Dr. J. T. Dallas of the Bureau of Animal Husbandry; J. W. Lambert, of the directing force of the Teton National Forest; J. P. Rosenberg, county assessor, besides various members of the organization.

The resolutions committee recommended that a levy of one-half cent per head be made to provide funds for cooperation with the Biological

Survey in predatory animal work, and that county commissioners furnish \$1,000 for the same purpose.

Forest permittees were asked to keep accurate record of numbers and period of use for each separate unit on each band allotment, and to turn these records over to the forest ranger each fall; the permittee retaining a copy for his own records.

The Forest Service was asked to make a reduction in grazing fees for 1931 and 1932.

A committee was named to work for the lowering of assessed valuation of all range and farm lands and livestock.

Ten cents, with board for shearers, was endorsed as the rate of payment for blade or machine shearers.

## Lamb Consumption 14 Per Cent Higher--Decline in Total Meat Use

A marked increase in per capita consumption of lamb in 1930 in the United States is shown in the annual reports of the Department of Agriculture giving production and consumption of all classes of meat.

The figures for per capita consumption are derived by considering total slaughter, imports and exports to show the estimated total consumption, which then is divided by the reported total population.

Production and slaughter figures are quite accurate for animals slaughtered under federal inspection, and these figures show quite accurately the changes that are going on. It is necessary for government statisticians to do some estimating as to the number and weight of meat animals consumed that are not included in reports of statistics for federal inspection. However, former investigations have pretty well established the relationship of the volumes of federal and non-federal inspected slaughter. In sheep and lambs, about 80

per cent of the total slaughtering is under federal inspection.

The number of animals slaughtered under federal inspection, with the estimated total and per capita consumption for 1929 and 1930, are shown in the table.

The per capita consumption of all meat declined by 3 per cent. Lamb consumption increased 14 per cent. Beef declined 2.5 per cent, veal showed no change, and pork declined 6.3 per cent. Lamb and mutton make up only 5 per cent of the total meat supply.

The number of cattle and calves slaughtered last year was slightly smaller, but some increase in average weight prevented a material change in weight of dressed products. The decline in numbers and total weight of hogs was considerable.

This data does not include lard, which fell from 14.3 to 13.8 pounds per capita.

The total per capita consumption of all meat was 120.1 pounds in 1917; 130 pounds in 1919, and 149.7 pounds in 1924.

	Number Killed Under Federal Inspection		Total U. S. Consumption Pounds		Per Capita Consumption Pounds	
	1929	1930	1929	1930	1929	1930
Sheep and Lambs.....	14,023,362	16,696,570	699,000,000	820,000,000	5.8	6.6
Cattle .....	8,324,067	8,170,373	6,065,000,000	6,076,000,000	51.4	50.1
Calves .....	4,488,996	4,595,046	816,000,000	833,000,000	6.8	6.8
Swine .....	48,444,694	44,265,694	9,223,000,000	8,005,000,000	72.8	68.2
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>75,281,119</b>	<b>73,727,683</b>	<b>16,803,000,000</b>	<b>16,394,000,000</b>	<b>136.8</b>	<b>131.7</b>

# WOOL MARKETS

Reported and Discussed By  
The National Wool Marketing Corporation

## Directors of The Corporation

SOL MAYER, <i>President</i> , San Angelo, Texas	A. A. JOHNS, Prescott, Arizona	J. W. HOECH, The Dalles, Ore.
J. A. HOOPER, <i>Vice President</i> , Salt Lake City, Utah	F. A. ELLENWOOD, Red Bluff, Cal.	HORACE FAWCETT, Del Rio, Texas
J. B. WILSON, <i>Secretary-Manager</i> , Boston, Mass.	K. W. CHALMERS, Garo, Colo.	L. E. ELLIOT, Sonora, Texas
	W. S. LEE, Mountain Home, Idaho	C. C. BELCHER, Del Rio, Texas
	M. E. STEBBINS, Helena, Mont.	J. H. LEMMON, Lansing, Mich.
	F. W. LEE, San Mateo, N. M.	W. W. BILLINGS, Lansing, Mich.

## Manager Wilson's Statement

FEW can realize, without actually having spent weeks in our office, the immense amount of work there is connected with handling wools under the National Wool Marketing Corporation plan. Because of the huge task involved in the first year's work we have not been able to furnish stockholders' associations and the directors with as much information as we desired to during the past year but we expect that this year we will be able to issue them considerably more information which will be of value to them.

Our first year developed one exceptionally bright spot, which should be of increasing benefit to the wool grower when better times develop. It is the close connection between the grower and the manufacturer. The National has offered the grower the closest and most economical connection he has ever had with the institutions that take his product.

Manufacturers, generally speaking, have been very friendly to our movement. They have purchased wool freely from the National and many of them are loud in their praise of the way the National helped to stabilize the market. That the manufacturers are kindly disposed is shown by the fact that during the past season we have sold wool, or by-products, to 220 mills and brokers, in amounts ranging from \$3.85 to \$1,257,338.17. We sold two mills over one million dollars worth of wool each; one mill took \$933,000 worth; another, \$812,000 worth, and three others over \$500,000 worth of wool each. We have sold nine other mills wools in amounts averaging \$663,000. We have sold 33 mills wool in amounts varying from \$52,700 to \$247,857 each, an average of \$103,700 per mill. We have sold 171 mills wool and by-products in amounts ranging from \$3.85 to \$45,917, or an average of \$7,470.

The past year has been a very difficult one to merchandise wool. I believe that the selling agents, Draper and Company, have done a remarkably good job in putting the growers' consignments into the hands of the manufacturers.

The future of the National Wool Marketing Corporation is entirely in the hands of the wool growers who organized and direct it. If they have confidence in their own organization and will show that confidence by shipping their wool to it, the movement will, unquestionably, be a huge success. If the growers, however, prefer to sell their wool at less than its value, they will help to defeat the real purpose of orderly and co-operative marketing.

## The Wool Situation

*A Statement By*

THE NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION

DURING April, the wool sales of the National Wool Marketing Corporation amounted to between 7,500,000 and 8,000,000 pounds. All grades of wool and all sections of the country were represented. Immediately following the opening of the third series of the London sales, March 28, the market developed an uneasiness but the Cooperative resisted in every possible way the attempts made to force prices down.

During the last week of the month the Cooperative disposed of approximately 2,500,000 pounds of wool, a substantial amount of which was turned on the basis of the strong market of three weeks before. The National resisted all efforts to bear down the market immediately following the London sale opening.

One leading mill buyer is reported to have said that he could buy wool cheaper anywhere on the street than from the National. Another buyer has said he could obtain wool at two cents a pound cheaper than

the National prices. The resistance being offered by the Cooperative to the drive for lower prices finds additional support in the weekly market report of the Boston Transcript for March 30. It says: "Cooperative quotations run up to 65 cents for the best fine staple wools, Montana and similar. Other sellers are quoting 62 to 63 cents for very good wool."

Despite the decline at the opening of the London sale, the foreign markets are showing more strength than many observers anticipated. London declined about 5 per cent on Merinos and 10 to 15 cents on cross-breds. These declines, particularly on Merinos, were less than many anticipated in view of the sharp upward trend during the last London series. These new levels in London, however, are substantially above the lows of January and are still above the importing parity with domestic wools, which assures home-grown wools a secure priority on the American market. There is no reason to expect any lower prices in London and the recent decline is nothing for the American grower to be alarmed over. On the other hand, as general business in this country improves we hope it will be possible to realize wholly this differential in foreign parity.

The goods trade in New York reports a good volume of trade but at low prices. The result is a constant pressure to hold raw wool prices as low as possible and to forestall all efforts to mark up quotations. The situation is aggravated materially by the fact that dealers have been able to secure considerable wool in the West at bargain prices, which they are able to turn quickly. This is a strong additional factor in the current uneasiness.

Many spinners are running full time and anticipate steady business throughout the remainder of the year. The men's wear mills are anticipating a favorable fall trade. In general, February and March were two of the best months the mills have experienced in a considerable time. With stocks of fine staple well cleared there has been an increase in demand for medium wools.

Despite the fact that the 1931 clip is likely to be at least 15,000,000 pounds larger than that of 1930 the outlook for domestic wool is considered favorable. In its analysis the Bordosi Analytical Bureau characterized this outlook as "more favorable than at any time in the last several years." The sharp decrease in foreign imports will offset the increase in the domestic clip for the current season. It is believed that foreign imports for 1931 will be only half those of 1930.

A gradual increase in consumption is predicted for the last half of the year. This development hinges to a large degree on whether business improves in the fall as many observers anticipate. However, the majority of mills appear to be expecting and are preparing for such improvement.

The 1930 wool stocks of the National have been steadily diminishing and by June 1 the hold-over stock will be comparatively light. New wools are commencing to arrive on the market. When the market commenced to display uneasiness the last of the month the National again turned attention to tops as an outlet for the medium and lower wools. Approximately 25,000,000 pounds of wool has been marketed as tops by the Cooperative during the past season. It has been found that under favorable circumstances top-making has enhanced the return from the wool.

In April selling activity of fine wool continued to receive the first call, although an increase in business in medium wools was noticed. The character of April business is shown in the report of sales.

### Corporation's April Sales

The list printed below gives clean basis prices for various grades of wool from various states, sold by the National Wool Marketing Corporation during last month.

	Price (Clean Basis)
<b>FINE STAPLE:</b>	
50,000 lbs. Montana .....	.65
4,500 lbs. Belle Fourche .....	.66
60,000 lbs. Montana .....	.65
50,000 lbs. Territory .....	.63 1/2
40,000 lbs. Montana .....	.65
45,000 lbs. Belle Fourche .....	.66
10,000 lbs. Montana .....	.65
<b>FINE FRENCH COMBING:</b>	
237,000 lbs. Colorado .....	.62
90,000 lbs. Wyoming .....	.62
12,000 lbs. Nevada .....	.62
100,000 lbs. Bonneville (Idaho) .....	.62
67,000 lbs. Montana .....	.62
100,000 lbs. Dakota .....	.62
100,000 lbs. Wyoming .....	.62
17,000 lbs. Utah .....	.62
<b>FINE CLOTHING:</b>	
12,500 lbs. Colorado .....	.57 1/2
13,000 lbs. California .....	.57
28,000 lbs. Idaho .....	.57
7,000 lbs. California .....	.57
<b>HALF BLOOD STAPLE:</b>	
50,000 lbs. Western Idaho .....	.59-60
25,000 lbs. Idaho Ranch .....	.59-60
110,000 lbs. Wyoming .....	.60
96,000 lbs. Wyoming .....	.60
100,000 lbs. Idaho Ranch .....	.60
27,000 lbs. Eastern Idaho .....	.59
59,000 lbs. Wyoming .....	.59-60
20,000 lbs. Idaho .....	.59-60
25,000 lbs. Idaho Ranch .....	.59-60
75,000 lbs. Graded Dakota .....	.60
100,000 lbs. Wyoming .....	.60
234,000 lbs. Dakota .....	.59
41,000 lbs. Wyoming .....	.60
65,000 lbs. Missouri .....	.58
10,000 lbs. Territory .....	.60 1/2
<b>HALF BLOOD CLOTHING:</b>	
5,000 lbs. Territory .....	.54
75,000 lbs. Montana .....	.54
100,000 lbs. Wyoming .....	.54



## THREE-EIGHTHS STAPLE:

50,000 lbs. Territory	.48
35,000 lbs. Idaho	.50

## THREE-EIGHTHS CLOTHING:

149,000 lbs. Dakota	.43
150,000 lbs. Territory	.48
2,500 lbs. Valley	.44
2,500 lbs. Territory	.49
143,000 lbs. Valley	.43
40,000 lbs. Montana	.45-45 1/2
23,500 lbs. Wyoming	.45
28,000 lbs. Dakota	.45
20,000 lbs. Montana	.46 3/4
30,000 lbs. Idaho	.45 1/2
15,000 lbs. Wyoming	.45
20,000 lbs. Montana	.45
135,000 lbs. Territory	.45
27,000 lbs. New York	.42
25,000 lbs. Minnesota	.45
22,000 lbs. Territory	.45
197,000 lbs. Territory	.45

## QUARTER STAPLE:

25,000 lbs. North Dakota	.40
50,000 lbs. Washington	.40
50,000 lbs. Washington	.40
9,000 lbs. Territory	.40
40,000 lbs. Dakota	.40

## QUARTER CLOTHING:

95,000 lbs. Oregon	.37 1/2
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## LOW QUARTER AND BELOW:

84,000 lbs. Montana-Western Wyoming-Dakota	.38
33,000 lbs. North Dakota	.36

## ORIGINAL BAG:

7,000 lbs. Wyoming	.56
47,000 lbs. Wyoming	.58
41,000 lbs. Nevada	.57 1/2
100,000 lbs. Nevada	.60
189,000 lbs. Nevada	.58
57,000 lbs. Nevada	.58
350,000 lbs. Arizona	.60
179,000 lbs. Colorado	.58
4,300 lbs. Colorado	.58
44,000 lbs. 10-months' Texas	.61
250,000 lbs. Fall Texas	.50
28,000 lbs. California	.57
46,000 lbs. California	.57
81,000 lbs. Montana	.62
130,000 lbs. Utah	.60
40,000 lbs. Utah	.58
73,000 lbs. Utah	.58
74,000 lbs. Utah	.58

## The Need of Cooperative Selling

By Vice President J. A. Hooper

THE National Wool Marketing Corporation is not the result of an accident. It is not the outcome of just a few years of thought and effort. Neither is it the product of the Federal Farm Board. The government is not in the wool business and has not purchased any wool or mohair.

By virtue of the power given by Congress through

the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act, the Federal Farm Board has brought valuable advice and financial assistance to organized efforts of growers that date back fifty years. The activities of several lines of grower effort were coordinated and made much more effective and practical through the aid provided by Congress in 1929 in the passage of legislation that had been actively discussed in Congress and out for many years.

Commerce and industry have effected intelligent and effective organization for the selling and distribution of their products and service. The wool producer now is doing likewise. He was discouraged by the old agencies for the distribution of wool that found it necessary to work for the depressoin of prices until ownership had passed from the hands of the grower, and then to work for the marking up of values.

The growers' National Wool Marketing Corporation is more than an uninterested agency for distribution. It is the instrument of the growers themselves and as a dominating factor in the industry is in a position not only to sell wools advantageously but to cooperate with manufacturers and consumers in discovering and introducing new outlets and uses for the product handled.

Isn't this a day of specialization? Is it possible for an individual wool grower, returning from tending his flocks on the open range and removed for months at a time from direct contact with the outside world, to expect to even proceed intelligently in placing his wool clip into channels of commerce at a price representing its true value and wool trade conditions at the time? Only through organized effort, such as now provided by the National Wool Marketing Corporation and its member associations can the wool clips of individual growers reach the mills with the minimum of expense and the maximum of efficiency and justice to the producers.

Wool growers realize that in the extremely adverse conditions of 1930 and 1931 the proceeds from their clips would have been very much less than they really were, if it had not been for the concentration of selling representation furnished by their National Corporation.

## Why London Remains Higher

A QUESTION repeatedly asked is: "Why hasn't the domestic market responded more readily to the upturn in the foreign markets?"

The existing disparity between Boston and London and the difficulty experienced in marking up domestic prices should bring home very forcefully to the growers the fact that it is a boomerang to let the dealers get cheap wool at shearing time. The situation prompting

the question demonstrates that at times western ranch sales set Boston prices.

In spite of the declines at the opening of the third London series, now underway, prices abroad are from 10 to 25 per cent above those of December. Domestic prices firmed up considerably prior to active bartering for new wools in the West, when it displayed uneasiness. With opening of the third series the market in this country has shown weakness in some grades.

Because of the intense competition in the goods trade and the low prices for finished products mills naturally are seeking their wool at the lowest possible price. Naturally they are emphasizing the decline in London toward that end in their buying operations. Another factor being emphasized by the mill buyers is that with consumption lower than usual and a new record clip coming on there is no justification for paying higher prices.

The National Wool Marketing Corporation has resisted in every way possible attempts to force raw wool prices downward. Constantly after the first of February, when the domestic market became active, the National strove to mark up prices. This was possible on many lines.

Although the decline in London late in April obviously has some psychological effect in the trade in this country it is of vastly less significance than a factor for which the growers themselves are largely to blame. It is a well known fact that considerable wool has been bought by dealers this season at prices below the actual market. It is difficult for the Cooperative to maintain the market when dealers acquire for example, wool on the basis of 50 cents a clean pound of a character for which the National has been receiving 60 cents. Much of this wool has been bought on direct mill order and therefore a quick turnover has been possible, which warrants the taking of a smaller margin of profit.

Whenever dealers succeed in getting some underpriced wool in the West they are able to sell it cheaper in the East. During times such as at the present, when the wool market is rather sensitive, it takes but a few below-market sales to have a seriously disturbing effect. This condition becomes doubly influential in a year when the trade strives for quick-turnover, as it appears to be doing this season.

If the upturn at London in March had come at any time of the year other than at the beginning of the shearing season there is no doubt that the response in this country would have been more pronounced. Under such circumstances dealers would have been unable to secure the cheap wool which is now influencing the market.

It is extremely difficult for the Cooperative to maintain price levels which reflect the true market

when other sellers come along with cheaply-bought wools and sacrifice their normal profit in order to embarrass the institution they are seeking to put out of business. Every grower who sells his wool at below its real market parity contributes to this unfortunate condition and helps keep the domestic market down.

## Wool Consumption and Imports

THE consumption of wool in March was larger than in February and also larger than in March of last year. The totals for wools used for all clothing purposes (excluding carpet wools, all of which are imported) were as follows:

### U. S. CONSUMPTION OF IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC CLOTHING WOOL

	Domestic	Foreign	Total
March, 1931 .....	25,930,331	5,139,385	31,069,716
February, 1931 .....	24,975,355	3,082,331	28,057,686
March, 1930 .....	20,875,261	7,319,683	28,194,944
February, 1930 .....	22,033,976	7,509,590	29,543,566

Only 16 per cent of the March consumption for clothing purposes was foreign wool and only 15 per cent of that foreign supply was of the coarser grades (46s and lower) for which the last tariff law provided duty rates below those set for the finer grades. In other words, but 2.5 per cent of the total March consumption of wools for clothing purposes was of the coarse imported grades. In March, 1930, before the new tariff took effect, 5.8 per cent of the consumption was of the imported coarse grades, so that it appears that the use of these imported coarse wools upon which a lower duty was placed has declined instead of increased as was feared by some students of the wool tariff.

In connection with these government reports on wool consumption it always must be remembered that they can cover only a part of the mills. In March reports on wool consumption were made to the government by only 473 of the 539 mills in the country. The proportion of wool consumed and not reported is estimated at from 20 to 25 per cent by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers.

## Over-Advances

REPORTS that deductions would be made from 1931 returns of growers affiliated with the National Wool Marketing Corporation to pay for possible over-advances on 1930 wools are without foundation, according to J. B. Wilson, secretary-treasurer of the cooperative. In case of over-advances each local association in which they occur will work out a plan for meeting them. Most of the associations plan to amortize the

over-advances over a period of years through earnings and funds accumulated in spread in interest rates.

The Lone Star Wool-Mohair Cooperation Association, Texas, has definitely voted to assess any 1930 over-advances against the individual grower who received them. This association, however, does not plan to deduct these over-advances from 1931 returns. Although a plan has not been definitely worked out yet by the Lone Star association it is planned to handle the over-advances over a period of years so they will not be burdensome on the producers.

"It should be borne in mind, however," explains Mr. Wilson, "that no direct deductions will be made from 1931 returns to cover over-advances. This applies to all associations comprising the National Wool Marketing Corporation."

### The Value of Concentrated Volume

THERE is no doubt that much of the stability which the wool market displayed last year (it declined less than any other basic commodity) was due to the fact that such a large percentage of the domestic clip was concentrated in the hands of the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

For years wool growers have been expounding the principles of orderly marketing, that is, releasing the wool for sale only as it was demanded by the mills at full market value. During the past year the National furnished a real demonstration of just what "orderly" marketing really means and how it profits the producer.

From the time the National Wool Marketing Corporation was formed until about February 1 of this year, when mills commenced activity for the spring season, the wool market was weak. Mills were not interested in buying except for immediate needs, which were very light, and to have attempted to dispose of wool in large volume would have broken the market. Hence, the National followed its policy of "orderly" marketing and sold wool only when the prices were right.

Had the 119,000,000 pounds of wool obtained by the cooperative last year been in the hands of several independent wool houses, none of which could be expected to practice "orderly" marketing in the interest of the grower, there is no doubt but that the situation would have been far less stable. It should be recognized that no matter whether the domestic wool clip was handled by one or twenty firms the wool consumption for the year would have been the same. Thus, with wool consumption for the year below normal there was only so much business available. Had the cooperative wools been in the hands of several private houses no doubt there would have developed serious competition to dispose of holdings. With the market so unsteady such a policy would have shoved the price down to much lower levels than actually were reached. It is recognized by many that the year 1930 would have

been much worse had it not been for the large volume of wool in the strong cooperative hands.

It was not until after spring business developed that the National Wool Marketing Corporation found real opportunity to demonstrate its ability to merchandise wool in large volume. Up to that time it was stated frequently that the National had more wool than it could handle effectively. Just as soon as the market became active and prices showed stability so that volume could be moved without depressing the market the National demonstrated its ability to sell wool at a fast pace.

Since joining the National Wool Marketing Corporation as sales agent, Draper & Company, has materially extended its facilities in every direction. It has brought to its staff many of the most experienced wool men in Boston. Draper & Company now has a personnel equal to that of several large wool houses each handling large tonnages. It is the policy of the National sales agency to obtain the best wool men in the trade.

One recent month's cooperative sales amounted to more than 20,000,000 pounds of grease wool. Officials of Draper & Company, sales agent for the National, say that they have selling facilities capable of handling much more wool than this every month—providing the market is right. It is the condition of the market, however, that determines the rate of cooperative sales.

Handling 20,000,000 pounds of wool in 30 days, an average of nearly a million pounds a day, did not burden the sales organization a bit.

With an active market all through the year and sales of 20 millions pounds per month, the present sales force would handle around 240,000,000 pounds per year, or approximately twice the volume received by the National during 1930.

The National, consistent with its policy of orderly marketing and obtaining full value for all wool, is not forcing its three-eighths and quarterblood wools on the market at present prices. Recently, there has been an increased demand for these lower grades but the cooperative believes that the coming season will witness a greater call for medium wools. If the cooperative volume were in the hands of several competing firms it is doubted if a marketing policy aimed to sustain values would be followed.

With more active markets in prospect for the coming season the National is certain to demonstrate another valuable advantage of having such a large volume in one agency. No ordinary wool dealer can have a sales force that follows all the mills in the United States. The sales agency of the National is able to reach every mill because its volume of sales justifies. Even last year the National reached every mill of importance in the country but as business in the textile industry improves, as it is doing, this important feature of its selling service will become more valuable.



## Wool Prices Since 1919

By DEAN J. A. HILL, *University of Wyoming*

THE editor of the Wool Grower requests a presentation of changes in wool prices over a period of years. As nearly as I can arrive at it, the course of prices is fairly well shown in the following figures from 1919 to 1931, which are Boston prices, grease basis, for average Wyoming wools at the first of May in each year:

1919	52.4	cents
1920	57.5	"
1921	24.4	"
1922	35.2	"
1923	48.3	"
1924	45.6	"
1925 (May 16)	41.	"
1926	37.8	"
1927	36.5	"
1928	43.	"
1929	37.2	"
1930	26.1	"
1931	21.1	"

### The Trend of Prices

The figures show a steady downward trend since 1923 except for a high spot in 1928. In the fall of 1924, there was some contracting of 1925 wool at comparatively high prices. This turned out to be a speculative movement and the wools sold then were worth less when delivered than were the 1924 wools. Such a long continued downward trend is unusual. It would seem to have been sufficient to complete whatever may be pending in a new and permanent period of lower price levels, such as we hear talked of, but of which no one can know for certain.

If it is desired to follow the price trend back for a longer period, the best readily available showing is found in the 1931 number of the Annual Wool Review recently published by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. In that publication, the annual average clean prices at Boston for all grades of domestic wool are shown from 1895 to 1930.

That price figure rose from 36 cents in 1895 to 54 cents in 1900. Then it rose steadily to 70 cents in 1905, and held that figure through 1907. Beginning in 1909, there was a fall from 70 cents until 55 cents was reached in 1913. The rise was then steady until the high point of \$1.70 was reached in 1918.

### Preparing an Index Figure

For more than nine years the writer has been preparing weekly wool market letters for the Laramie Republican-Boomerang, the local daily, and for a shorter time other monthly and bi-monthly letters for farm and livestock papers with state-wide circulation. In order to show the trend of the wool market from month to month and year to year an index figure was devised which is based on the average grease prices of the 5 principal grades of Wyoming wool on the ranch. This index is calculated from prices of territory wool on the

clean basis that are quoted every week in the Commercial Bulletin of Boston. The prices of four of the grades are telegraphed to newspapers all over the United States by the Associated Press every Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Thus, through the cooperation of the home town daily, it has been possible to write a market letter and calculate the index Friday afternoon after the A. P. market report was received.

The prices published are on the grease basis, at ranches in Wyoming. The grades used and the shrinkages assumed in making the calculations are as follows: Fine staple, 65 per cent; half blood combing, 62 per cent; three eights blood combing, 57 per cent; quarter blood combing, 53 per cent; fine and fine medium French combing, 66 per cent. After the prices of unscoured wool in Boston with these shrinkages are computed from the market quotations, six cents is then subtracted to cover the cost of shipping the wool from Wyoming and selling it in Boston. This is taken as the ranch price because the quotations in the Commercial Bulletin are supposed to represent what the manufacturers are paying the dealers and selling agents for wool in Boston. The six cents covers freight and the dealer's profit together with his expense for storage, grading, insurance, etc., in case the wool is sold by a dealer.

This is, of course, an arbitrary figure. But before it was adopted the writer examined the accounts of sales of a number of clips from Wyoming that had been consigned and found that all deductions amounted to nearly six cents a pound. At present the freight from Wyoming is about 2 cents a pound. This leaves 4 cents for the dealer's margin. This is pretty high because sometimes when dealers are competing actively in the West they probably buy on margins as low as one or one and one-half cents a pound, especially when they are buying wool that can go to the mills in the original bags. Some of these transactions amount practically to buying on the manufacturer's orders. Nevertheless, when one remembers that the index figure takes no account of clothing wool and makes no provision for deductions for tags and buck wool the six-cent margin is not likely to be far out of the way in most cases. The shrinkages assumed are also arbitrary, and for any particular clip in any particular year are likely to be either too high or too low. However, they are the best that the writer can select after nearly 25 years of observing and testing Wyoming wool. Of course they may be entirely wrong for other western states.

Another place in which the average of the five principal grades may not truly represent the average price of Wyoming wool is that each of the grades are given equal weight, whereas there are no exact figures to show the proportions of each actually produced in the state. The bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers estimates that Wyoming produces 35 per cent fine and 65 per cent medium. Whereas, if half blood is classified as medium, the index in question is based on the 40 per cent and 60 per cent med-

ium. Doubtless there is much more three-eighths produced in Wyoming than there is quarter-blood, but as a general rule, the prices of these two grades move rather closely together.

On the whole, it is believed that the index is close enough to the actual facts to be useful in indicating trends. It was used first in radio broadcasting in order that listeners who could not look at curves and who would ordinarily not be able to write down a long list of figures for further reference, could get some idea of general price movements. Later it was found quite useful in newspaper articles. The writer, personally, has found it very useful because two or three index figures are about all he can keep in mind. For example, the average of five principal grades on the first of May this year is 15.1 cents, (grease basis) last year on the first of May it was 20.1 cents, showing that the average decline in Wyoming has been 5 cents a pound on the grease basis. A man with a mixed clip who sold for 21 cents a year ago will likely be making as good a sale this year, in comparison to Boston quotations, if he sells for 15 cents, provided, of course, that the shrinkage and general character of his clip remains about the same.

Naturally, this comparison only takes into consideration the current quotations in Boston and takes no account of the possibility of future advances or declines in wool prices. The man whose clip is all fine or all some other grade must keep in mind that the prices of all grades have not changed equally. As compared with a year ago, fine staple is 4 cents lower, half blood combing is 5½ cents lower, three-eighths blood combing is 5½ cents lower, quarter blood is 6 cents lower, and fine and fine medium French combing is 5 cents lower. Hence, on the basis of prices received last year, the man who has a clip of good fine wool should take a cent less decline than the man whose clip is all three-eighths and quarter blood.

The figures presented below show the average price on five principal grades of Wyoming wools from January, 1928, which was the temporary high point, to the present month.

	1928	1929	1930	1931
	cents	cents	cents	cents
January	34.6	36.0	24.9	18.3
February	35.8	35.7	22.5	16.6
March	36.3	33.8	22.2	16.1
April	36.2	32.5	20.6	15.3
May	37.4	29.9	20.1	15.1
June	37.4	29.4	20.1	—
July	36.6	28.8	20.3	—
August	35.3	29.9	20.3	—
September	35.9	28.8	20.3	—
October	34.2	28.3	19.9	—
November	35.8	27.0	19.2	—
December	35.9	24.9	18.7	—

#### Co-operative Selling

The last eight years of declining wool values which we fondly trust now has been checked, may have

created some wrong impressions as to the most profitable selling methods. During this period, it has, of course, been almost generally true that ranch sales have resulted in better returns than have been obtained through consigning for sale at the market. If, as it seems reasonable to expect, the wool price trend is now in the other direction, the members of the co-operatives that are selling through the National Wool Marketing Corporation will reverse the experience of former years. Too many growers decide each year whether it is going to be a good thing for them to put in with the co-operative. I have advocated that the growers should make a study of the general problem and decide once and for all, or at least once for five or ten years, whether or not co-operative marketing is a good thing, and should be supported. If they decide to support it they should stay with it through thick and thin, just as the men who joined the labor unions and sometimes experienced individual hardships in order to support their organization and make it more helpful to them in the future.

#### Light Imports of Wool, Rags and Wastes

CURRENT imports of wool and wool wastes have an interest for growers at this time. First there is the question of the extent to which foreign supplies are arriving in this country to compete with home grown wools for the orders of the manufacturers, and second, the volume of imports as affected by the new tariff law that took effect last June.

At that time the rates on wool rags and wastes were materially increased. The duty on wool was increased from 31 to 34 cents per pound of clean content, except that the rate on the very coarsest grades was lowered to 29 cents.

A comparison of the statistics of imports for March and the first three months of this year with the same periods of last year shows the facts very clearly. It must be considered that with business conditions so far from normal, records perhaps may not furnish the final answer as to the effect of the tariff. As they now appear, the figures are very reassuring to our own growers.

There is a decline of 70 per cent in imports of rags, noils and wastes, and of 50 per cent in clothing wools and mohair during the first three months of 1931, as compared to the same three months in 1930, which was before the new rates of duty came into effect.

The actual figures are shown in the table:

#### IMPORTS OF WOOL AND WASTES

	Month of March		Three Months Ended March	
	1930	1931	1930	1931
Rags, noils, and wastes	1,770,353	895,917	6,011,799	1,619,820
Clothing Wool	2,314,916	384,243	7,997,604	1,614,511
Combing Wool	9,099,022	3,900,409	21,623,812	12,002,627
Mohair, Alpaca, etc.	64,662	125,802	477,669	253,864

## The Boston Wool Market

SEASONAL quiet rules in recent trading in the Boston wool market. Some clearing sales were held during April at what are supposed to have been very low prices, though full and detailed particulars are not forthcoming. Enough is known, however, to establish the fact that only the best wools have been maintained at recent quotations. For inferior and off wools of any description the market has been easy. Some of the off wools have been turned into tops, supposedly because a better market was available for them in that form.

It is apparent that there is enough wool on hand to cover mill needs now and in the immediate future. Not only is there a considerable volume of the 1930 clip still unsold, but the new wools from the 1931 clip are beginning to arrive in increasing volume. Some of these new arrivals have already been turned over to the mills, and the fact that receivers are willing to part with them at current market rates is significant as suggesting the question why sellers are willing to trade on this basis rather than wait for the tremendous advance in going prices so confidently predicted in certain circles.

One of the outstanding factors of today's market is the quite serious reaction in wool values noted at the opening of the third series of the London wool sales, April 28. This may not be actually of first importance, but it is very much in the eye of the wool trade at this moment. Among the lessons which are to be drawn from what is going on in London, possibly the most important is that it is quite apparent that the little boom in wool values which attended the second series of the wool sales was over-worked and had not nearly as much significance as seemed to be indicated by surface conditions.

Confirmation of this was found, not only in the reaction noted at the opening of the third series, but also in the way that the Bradford top market settled down again after the pressure was relieved. As this is written, there has been a slump of about four cents a pound in the price of the key number, 64's warp top, from the high point in the recent trading. At this time the quoted figure was 26¾ pence, while now it is 25 pence, with further concessions not impossible. It is suggested that the advances noted in March were caused by the frantic endeavors of speculators to cover short sales. However that may be, it is apparent that the demand for wool, both from Bradford and the Continent is not nearly as keen as it was a month or six weeks ago.

Whether it is humanly possible to coordinate this development with the domestic situation in such a way as to be of material benefit in the marketing of the new clip in the West is a question. It is very easy to magnify the importance of current happenings, especially when they seem to fit in closely with the observer's desires and needs. This is one of those cases. It is also possible that too much importance may be attached to the events attending the windup of the Australian auction season. The only market in the Commonwealth open for business at the end of April was Sydney, and in that market the last of the scheduled sales was to be held on May 2. Later sales are to be held at Brisbane, but with Sydney closed, the Australian season may be said to be practically over.

That Australian prices have been so well sustained, is hailed by many as proof positive that the world's wool markets have made a definite turn in an upward direction. The influence of Japan has been of material service in maintaining values at all of the recent sales. That

country increased its Australian takings in the period from July 1, 1930, to January 31, 1931, by approximately 120,000 bales, the comparative figures being 237,173 bales this year and 116,815 bales a year ago. Other buying countries, with the exception of Belgium, also increased their takings, though not in so large a percentage as Japan.

These things have a bearing, as showing that abnormal factors have been active in bringing about stronger primary markets. Therefore, it is suggested that care is necessary in figuring the real situation. For instance, Australian shipments to the United States from July 1, 1930, to February 28, 1931, were 48,893 bales, compared with 30,738 bales for the same period a year ago. Most of this increase in shipments was for mill account. Dealers could not see where there was even a fighting chance in importing large blocks of Australian wool, looking at conditions either here or abroad.

The work of taking over the new clip is going forward steadily in all sections where shearing is far enough advanced to make operations attractive. Good clearances have been made to date in Territory wool sections, but in Ohio and other fleece wool sections in the Middle West the new wools are accumulating. New Territory wools are beginning to arrive with some freedom and some of them have already been turned over to the mills.

Taking up the sections in order, it would appear that most activity to date has been noted in Texas, Utah, California, Idaho, Nevada and Oregon. One outstanding feature has been the contracting of about 1,500,000 pounds of Lakeview (Oregon) wools to independent dealers. The growers withdrew from the cooperatives last July and so were able to take this action at this time. These wools are said to have brought 14 to 16 cents to the



growers. A little has also been done recently in eastern Oregon at 14 to 15 cents, but shearing there is backward.

Considerable has been done lately in the way of taking over the new spring Texas wools. According to a late estimate, independent dealers had already secured approximately 172,500,000 pounds of these wools, all twelve-months' or ten to twelve-months' clips. The eight-months' wools have just begun to move, a Boston house having taken over about 45,000 pounds at 17 cents a pound. This is the first sale reported this season of eight-months' wool. Opening prices last year in the same section were about 25 cents.

Southern and Middle Counties California wool have been well cleared, though this year they are said to be unusually burry and defective. Prices have ranged from 13 to 18 cents, the higher figure being for the best clips in the Sacramento Valley. The early shorn wools in Idaho and Nevada have also been well cleared. Recent prices in Utah have been at 14 to 16 cents, occasionally more. Shearing is just getting under way in the medium wool sections around Rock Springs, Wyoming, on the Union Pacific Railroad. Prices have not yet been stabilized for these wools. It is reported that independent dealers are getting some wools at 14 to 15 cents in the country tributary to Rawlins. Farther north and in Montana practically nothing has yet been done as no one seems anxious to contract at prices on a parity with eastern markets.

The fine wool season is opening slowly in Ohio and other fleece wool states in the Middle West. Most of the trading thus far has been in medium clips which were the first to be shorn. Such clips have recently been bringing 15 to 16 cents, but fine clips have been selling at 17 to 18 cents for the best. Local speculators have been fairly active, and are paying prices in some cases higher than eastern buyers feel is safe.

In this market there is really little change to note in prices of Ohio and similar fleeces. Such prices as have been revised during the month have been mainly necessary to bring the selling market to the parity of costs in the country. Current prices for fine Ohio wools are nominally quoted at 26 to 27 cents for delaines and 25 to 26 cents for half-blood combing, but with little doing on account of depleted stocks of old wool. For fine clothing the market is easy at 20 to 21 cents.

The market for Territory wools is without particular change for the best wools, but there has undoubtedly been clearing sales of average and inferior wools at lower prices than have yet been quoted. Perhaps these clearing sales have had an effect of bringing about greater stability, but it is difficult to talk stability when today's selling price is tomorrow's asking price.

It is doubted whether better than 60 cents can be realized for the best French combing wools, whether graded or in the original bags. In fact top prices are believed to be around 58 to 60 cents. Good graded French combing lots are quotable at 57 to 58 cents, and less for average and inferior wools. It is reported that some off wools have been put into tops in order to find a better market for them.

Half-blood wools are not materially changed, some of the best lots being available at 58 to 60 cents, and somewhat lower for less desirable clips. Medium wools have been attracting some attention on the Territory side, though the call continues for short fine tops and this indicates a continued demand for cheap fine wools. For three-eighths-blood staple wools the market is 45 to 50 cents, according to the character and condition of the wool and the percentage of clothing therein. In the same way a range is noted in market quotations from 38 to 45 cents for quarter-bloods, and sales are reported within the above range for both of the major medium grades.

The market has quieted down a little for strictly woolen wools, though the position of the best pulled wools has not changed much and such wools have been in constant demand where the mills have been able to sell their goods.

While the market is perhaps a little quieter than it was at the end of March, the situation is not without its encouraging features, but dealers are disposed to stress the necessity of "buying the new clip right."

HENRY A. KIDDER

## California's Lamb Campaign

"A MULE can't pull when he is kicking and he can't kick when he is pulling—let's all get together and put this thing over"—is the way Mr. F. A. Ellenwood summarizes the essence of success in putting the lamb program over. Mr. Ellenwood made this statement recently at Willows, Calif., where the plans for promoting lamb consumption were presented to the sheepmen of Glenn County, and accepted in a hundred per cent fashion.

The Glenn County meeting was a continuation of the work carried on intensively during February and March by the California Association with the assistance of Mr. Erle Racey. Before the date set for the meeting a good deal of circularising by mail and personal contact with sheepmen was done by the county committee, and as a result the attendance was greater than at any of the previous gatherings held in state in the interest of the lamb program. They all brought with them a lot of enthusiasm. Many of them paid their assessment right then, and immediately after the meeting, while the spirit was high, the committee continued its efforts, working with local business men to secure their support to a movement that will react to their benefit, and also continuing contact with individual sheepmen. As a result, Glenn County, on April 28, had turned in 49.3 per cent of its quota to the state association.

# The Lamb Markets in April

## Chicago

LAMB trade was equal to a more creditable performance than other livestock during April. Both cattle and hog markets cracked wide open, getting worse as the month advanced, while lambs had occasional spurts. Supply was not excessive and at no time was the dressed market incapable of absorbing the weekly offering without straining an effort.

Receipts around the market circle were somewhat lighter than in April, 1930, making due allowance for a heavy movement of Texas yearlings and sheep, which was felt at Fort Worth, Kansas City, St. Louis and even Chicago. Fort Worth handled the big gob of Texas yearlings, lambs of 1930 held back by drought last year, and some one in the trade made a potful of money on them. Packers are suspected of having the bulk of this velvet concealed in their jeans, as they took the major portion of the package. This suspicion is confirmed by the fact that the short end of the Texas run that fell to the share of speculators literally coined money. One train, for illustration, that cost \$7 per hundred at Fort Worth realized \$8.85 at Chicago, weighing 80 pounds, and between Fort Worth and Chicago weights, they shrank only one pound per head, stopping to fill enroute. They were shipped as feeders, on a 50-cent rate and if this result is an indication of what packers got out of the Texas run, they made a veritable killing.

Reception of the Texas run was facilitated by a lively dressed market, due to light receipts of fed lambs at eastern markets. Owing to drought last year territory east of Chicago put in few lambs and it is axiomatic that what does not go in cannot come out. This forced packers with killing plants down east to ship lambs from western points to keep them supplied; other-

wise it is improbable that anything would have realized \$10 at Chicago, that level being touched on several occasions. The California crop of spring lambs also fell down in quality and numbers, so that Texas did not figure in the customary price breaking role. Years have elapsed since Texas had a spring run of fat ovine stock and heretofore it has invariably toppled the price list over. Apprehension existed that would be repeated, but as is customary, the expected did not happen, in the case of lambs at least, aged sheep being a horse of another color.

All things taken into reckoning, lamb trade reached the May 1 goal with flying colors. The old crop was on a \$9.50@10 basis, while hogs were set back to \$7 and a large share of the fed steer crop sold at \$7@8 per hundred.

Colorados ran somewhat freely throughout the month, but were creditably handled; supply of shorn lambs was small and native springers were almost entirely absent. But for the Texas delegation, old crop lambs would have realized \$1 per hundred more; at least that is consensus of trade opinion. Assertion that the large percentage of direct stuff received by packers at Chicago did not help the price, will not be seriously disputed. Killers put up the stiffest possible resistance to advances, adhering to the same dilatory tactics that have marked their operations throughout the season and put on a nickel or a dime only under stress of necessity.

The eastern-dressed market had a single break early in April, but Chicago was stable all through, showing underlying strength when the East broke \$1 per hundred. On that decline New York broke from \$20@28 to \$17@25 on genuine springers, but such was demand that recovery was prompt, genuine spring carcasses reacting to \$28@30, the following week; old-croppers to \$22@24 and strongweights to \$18

@19. As lightweight culls got action, Texas product, which was fat, fitted into the middle of the picture nicely. These are good prices, somewhat higher than at the corresponding period of 1930, while live lamb quotations were on about the same basis as at that time. Fleece values must of course be reckoned with, but not a murmur has emanated from killer sources concerning the profitable return of the winter turnover, so that it must have been reasonably satisfactory. Distributors got both volume and profits. One feature of dressed trade was that thin lambs and yearlings wholesaled within \$2 per hundred of most of the quality goods, an unusual condition, impossible when the dressed market is not keyed up or when week-end bargain sales are necessary to effect a clearance. Distributors complained of lack of quality in the offering late in the month, for which the large percentage of Texas product was probably responsible, its origin being carefully concealed. On this account upper grades of strongweight lambs and even heavyweights were popular.

The month's price movements were somewhat monotonous. During the week ending April 4, ten markets received 289,000 against 280,000 the previous week and 357,000 last year. On this run woolskins reached \$9.75, the high point since August, 1930, with nothing selling below \$9 and few below \$9.50. The general price list advanced 50 cents per hundred. Shorn lambs were in demand at \$8.50@8.75, springers stopping at \$13, in load lots, with bunches up to \$16.50. Woolled native ewes reached \$5.50, bulk selling at \$4.25@5.

During the week ending April 11, ten markets received 287,000 against 289,000 the previous week and 301,000 a year ago. A mid-week 50-cent break was promptly repaired, the \$10 quotation reappearing after

a long vacation and a lot of lambs selling at \$9.75@9.90. On the other hand springer values weakened, prices dropping to a \$10@11 basis, with odd lots at \$13. In an effort to get numbers, killers paid \$8.50 @8.65 for thin fleshed wool lambs, 96-pound Colorados making \$9.50. Recently shorn lambs sold up to \$9, others with a short growth of wool up to \$9.25. The flurry in lambs relieved pressure on sheep.

During the week ending April 18, ten markets received 332,000 sheep and lambs, against 287,000 the previous week and 302,000 a year ago. After the high tension of the previous week, the market relaxed, but a 50-cent decline was regained in a few days and the top rebounded to \$10.15, \$9.75@10 buying the bulk of the woolled stock. Lambs weighing 100 to 110 pounds sold at \$8.60@9, the best shorn stock up to \$9.25. Native spring lambs disappeared. A few Californias realized \$10, bulk of Pacific Coast delegation arriving in packers' hands. Fat sheep sold lower at every session of the market, woolled ewes going at \$3.50@4 and clippers at \$3@3.50.

During the final full week, ending April 25, the \$10 top held fast, with an occasional 25-cent slip which the buying side was unable to hold. On the stub week at the month end, buyers trained their guns for barrage work, getting nowhere, as between packer and independent shipper needs there were not enough lambs to go around. Sheep dropped to the lowest levels in many years; fat ewes selling at \$3.50 with the wool on, and \$3@3.50 shorn. In fact wool on a sheep's back was not an asset.

Features of the month were:

Scarcity of native spring lambs; lack of quality in Californias, and dearth of highly finished handyweights in the Colorado supply.

Demand for finished shorn lambs at a narrow spread compared with woolled goods, owing to scarcity and superior finish.

Wool trade did not justify shearing, except to get gains.

Cordial reception given a heavy Texas movement that, under normal supply conditions, would have demoralized the trade. Killers took all the Texans offered and clamored for more.

Heavy lambs, both woolled and shorn, got action, owing to lack of finished handyweights.

Fat ewe market took a nose dive, dressed mutton trade failing to keep pace with a lively lamb market. Fat shorn ewes sold at \$3; plain kinds down to \$2.50.

A package of Colorado spring lambs, farm-raised, realized \$12 per hundred, late in the month.

Ordinary California spring lambs sold as firsts at \$9@10.50 at the Missouri River, packers buying thin Californias with the intention of feeding out.

Spreads in old crop lambs were narrow, killers being under the necessity of taking 95 to 100 pounds to get numbers, but paid the prices under protest.

Top lambs at one time were 50 cents per hundred above top cattle and \$3 above top hogs.

Colorado feeders ran into a favorable clean-up period. They sold at \$9@9.50, Chicago basis, many lambs laid in at \$4.50 to \$5.50, range basis. The bulk of Colorado production went from Denver in packer ownership, a method of moving that looks permanent as packers can run such lambs to Chicago for slaughter at minimum expense and less shrink. Under present conditions, lambs loaded at Denver on Monday are killed at Chicago on Thursday. Shrinkage in transit, serious to a speculator, means nothing to a packer.

A few California spring lambs realized \$11.50 at Chicago; Kansas City sold Arizonas at \$10.65 and at Omaha, Californias realized anywhere from \$9 to \$10.50 according to conditions. It is probable that considerable numbers of thin California lambs will be finished at feed yards adjacent to markets. Several

thousand have gone on feed at La-Fox, Ill.; others near San Francisco. They make good gains, on strong feed, with the wool off under high temperatures.

The lamb feeding season just closed has been fairly satisfactory to those in the game. No big money has been made, but cheap gains were put on, owing to a favorable season; loss was normal and not only was the money involved kept together, but modest profits accrued on the bulk of the output.

At the beginning of May, prices were on practically the same basis as at the corresponding period of 1930, \$6.50 below 1929; \$8 under 1928 and \$7 below 1927.

J. E. POOLE

## Kansas City

APRIL brought the highest average prices of the season for winter fed lambs. With but one or two exceptions the top price for lambs every day in the month was \$9 or better with the extreme top \$9.50 paid several days, and \$9.15 to \$9.40 top on most days. Shorn lambs held prevailing tops at \$7.85 to \$8.40. Demand during the entire period was large and the runs on the local market were the largest ever reported in any April by around 70,000 head. Texas sheep and spring lambs helped produce this record.

The lamb market made an even more creditable performance when it is considered that hogs and fat cattle fell to a new low level for the year and feeders encountered severe losses.

Spring lambs started to move in limited packages before Easter, and in the first week last month \$12 was the prevailing top. Following Easter the movement increased to include Idahos, Californias and natives in sizeable supply. Prices eased off gradually to about the middle of the month and then came in for a rally. At the low point best springs brought \$10 but \$10.50 to \$10.85 was in evidence the latter part of April. As fed lambs have



been marketed closely new crop lambs will make up an increasing per cent of the total supply. Dry weather cut down the run of California lambs that will be available for killers. The Arizona supply will not be so large as was at first anticipated. The native spring lamb supply will be slightly larger than last year. In May the southern and southeastern crop will move freely.

Texas has been shipping grass fat sheep freely the past three weeks. Fort Worth and Kansas City has had large supplies and killers have brought and shipped large numbers direct. It is estimated that more than 60 per cent of the Texas grass muttons have already been shipped. Early in the month grass wethers brought \$4 to \$4.75; yearlings and twos mixed \$5.50 to \$5.75, and grass ewes \$3.25 to \$4. Prices sagged as the month advanced, and on the close shorn wethers brought \$3 to \$3.50; twos \$3.25 to \$3.75, and shorn ewes \$2 to \$3, with culls \$1.50 to \$2. Texas is getting rid of a lot of old ewes. As this is the first time in several years that the Texas sheep country has had excellent grass the grass mutton supply has been especially heavy. Killers have been able to handle it freely and producers have reduced their holdings of aged wethers to a material extent. May will conclude this movement.

April sheep receipts in Kansas City were 311,203 or 7,230 larger than in the same month last year and the largest ever reported in any April. Texas sheep contributed the main part of the increase. In the first four months receipts were 866,395. They exceeded the first four months last year by 100,398 and were the largest on record in any similar period in any year.

The slaughter of sheep in Kansas City for both April and the four months established a new high record. This had a material bearing in the active market that prevailed during April.

C. M. PIPKIN

## Denver

**F**AT lambs on the Denver market closed the month of April generally steady to a dime higher than on the opening sessions but somewhat lower than the peak price at the middle of the month. Spring lambs were around 25 to 50 cents lower.

Sheep receipts for the month totaled 183,274 head, compared to 193,115 head for the same month last year.

Sheep trade at Denver continued active through the month of April, with strong demand both from shipper buyers and packers. The liberal supply of lambs marketed here from day to day found ready outlet at prices fully in line with those at other markets and frequently a great many more lambs could have been sold here than were received.

Fat lambs were selling around \$8.50 to \$8.65 for the best early in April. By the middle of the month a top of \$9.40, the extreme peak price of the season, was reached. Declines later brought the top on the closing session to \$8.75, only slightly higher than the price at the opening. Spring lambs were selling from \$10.50 to \$11 early in the month, while most of those coming at the close were going at prices ranging around \$10. Several carloads of California spring lambs came late in the month and sold up to \$10 for the best grades, with medium kinds down to \$9.50.

Fat ewes in the wool were selling early in April around \$4 to \$4.75. However, most of the ewes now coming to market are clipped. These bring prices ranging from \$3 to \$3.50 for the good grades, with fair kinds from \$2.50 to \$3.

Comparatively few lambs are left in the northern Colorado feed lots.

The demand here is good and the few remaining consignments will undoubtedly meet with favor when they arrive here. Receipts of lambs are expected to be rather limited here until the Nevada and Idaho crops begin to move, which will not be for several weeks yet.

F. N. FULTON.

## St. Joseph

**S**HEEP receipts for the month of April were 187,685 compared with 189,043, same month a year ago, which stands as a record for any month on this market. Of the month's total, nearly half were from Colorado feed lots, while California contributed nearly 25,000 and Texas and New Mexico about 24,000; however, bulk from the latter two states went into local feed lots.

While there was much unevenness to the market for fed lambs during the month, top quotations only showed a spread of 55 cents, ranging from \$8.90 to \$9.40. The month of March closed with the top at \$8.65; the first day of April there was a gain of 25@50 cents, which carried it to \$9.15; and from then on it was up and down, with the close at \$8.90, or only 25 cents over a month ago.

Clipped lambs reached \$8.35 at the high time, but closed with best at \$8.00. Texas clips sold during the month from \$7.25@8.00. California springers sold mostly \$10.00@10.25, with outs \$7.75@8.25. Two loads sold straight on the 7th at \$11.50, which was the highest sale of the month.

Numerous loads of feeding and shearing lambs went to local feed lots at \$7.75@8.75. The market for aged sheep broke sharply during the month. On the close most offerings were of the shorn kind. Ewes were selling \$2.50@3.00, old wethers \$3.00@3.25, two-year-olds around \$4.00, and yearlings \$5.00@7.00.

H. H. MADDEN

# Prevention and Control of Sheep Diseases

By DR. HADLEIGH MARSH  
Montana Veterinary Research Board

## VII-Internal Parasites of Sheep

IN the last article of this series, we discussed the general question of parasites of sheep and discussed in some detail the diseases caused by external parasites such as scab mites, lice, and ticks. The most important sheep parasites from the standpoint of the country as a whole are internal parasites, which include the various worms which develop in the stomach and intestines, the liver-flukes, and the lung-worms.

### Stomach Worms

The best known sheep parasite is probably the stomach worm. This is due to the fact that in the eastern and southern states the worms have been recognized for a long time as causing disease in the sheep, and treatments have been worked out which are in general use. In the northwestern states the worm that is known as the stomach worm in the East is not often found, but there is another worm which is found in the stomachs of northwestern sheep, and when they are present in large numbers, the same symptoms are produced as in the case of the eastern stomach worm, and the treatment is the same for both worms.

The well-known eastern stomach worm is a very small thread-like worm which lives in the fourth stomach. It has the appearance of being twisted, because the brown intestine can be seen in a spiral shape in the white body of the worm. The worm which is found in the stomach of northwestern sheep is even smaller than the eastern stomach worm. It can be seen as a barely visible curved brown line on the lining of the stomach.

A few of these worms may be present in the stomach of the sheep without causing any apparent symptoms. In fact, it is rare to find a

sheep anywhere that is entirely free from stomach worms of some kind. But when the worms are present in considerable numbers, the sheep show the effects. The symptoms caused by stomach worms are most noticeable in lambs. In a bunch of lambs that has become infested with worms, usually the first thing notic-

the stomach worm, but in lambs the symptoms caused by the intestinal worms may be more acute, with many deaths occurring. The examination of the droppings will also show the presence of these worms, as their eggs are somewhat different from the eggs of the stomach worm. An understanding of the life his-



Drenching Sheep for Stomach Worms.

ed is a dirty hind end, due to the wool being soiled by a diarrhea. Then one sees that the lambs are not growing and they become thin and have a rough-appearing wool. Frequently the owner will think that the diarrhea is due to some feed they are getting, as for example, cottonseed cake. On account of not recognizing the true cause of the trouble, the owner may try to stop the condition by changing the feed. Meanwhile the lambs are getting worse and some die. Whenever a diarrhea and unthriftiness show up in a bunch of lambs, it is good practice to have a definite diagnosis made by a veterinarian. A microscopic examination of the droppings will show the eggs of the worms.

There are also very small thread-like worms which live in the small intestines of the sheep. These produce much the same symptoms as

tory of the stomach and intestinal worms, and the way in which the sheep become infected is necessary for the control of this type of disease. The mature worms in the sheep produce eggs which are passed out with the droppings. The eggs as passed cannot directly reinfest a sheep which may pick them up. Before they are infectious for another sheep, they have to go through a partial development outside the sheep. In order to hatch, the egg must be dropped where there is moisture and warmth. Therefore in a northern climate, the sheep do not become reinfested during the winter months. This is also one reason why sheep on the range are not ordinarily heavily infested with stomach worms, as the land is usually high and dry. In the South the sheep may become reinfested at almost any time during the year, as the weather

is nearly always warm enough for the eggs to hatch. In about three weeks after a sheep has taken in the larvae of the stomach worm, they may begin to show symptoms.

#### Treatment for Stomach Worms

Treatment for the small roundworms of the stomach and small intestines is quite successful. Tetrachlorethylene in capsules has been found to be effective in killing the stomach worm, but it has not been shown to be as effective for the roundworms in the small intestine, which may do as much or more damage than the stomach worms. We have found a combination of copper sulphate and nicotine to be effective against both stomach and intestinal worms. We use a solution made by dissolving two ounces of copper sulphate in one gallon of water and adding one ounce of Blackleaf 40. The dose varies from two ounces for lambs to four ounces for mature sheep. It must be remembered that this medicine is poisonous, and that sheep will die as a result of careless use of the remedy. Sheep should be kept off feed for 18 hours before treating, and for several hours after treating. One or two days after treatment they should be moved to clean range. In the South, if the sheep are held on the same range, it is necessary to repeat the treatment every three to four weeks. In the North we find that one treatment in the fall or winter is sufficient. Lambs may have to be treated in the summer.

Prevention of heavy infestation with stomach worms consists in running sheep on high, dry land rather than in moist bottom lands; in draining moist places in pastures; in not grazing pastures too closely; and in infested pastures practicing frequent rotation of pastures where possible.

It is generally considered that a pasture on which wormy sheep have run is practically free from worms if it is left without sheep on it for a year. It has been found that the larvae of some of the worms may

resist freezing temperature and live over winter, but for practical purposes, the pasture should be safe after a year has elapsed.

#### Tapeworms

Tapeworms are found quite widely distributed in the country, and are better known to the sheepman than are the minute intestinal roundworms, because they are easily seen when an animal is examined after death, while the small roundworms are very easily overlooked, although they cause more trouble than the tapeworms.

There are two kinds of tapeworms found in sheep. One is the "fringed tapeworm" which is found in the first part of the small intestine and in the bile ducts of the liver. This tapeworm is usually only a few inches long, and each segment shows a fringed border. This kind of tapeworm is more common in the range country than in the East. The amount of damage done by this worm is not definitely known. In fact, it appears that sheep may harbor a considerable number of these tapeworms without showing any symptoms.

The other kind of tapeworm is found lower down in the intestines, and is usually several feet in length. They may be present in considerable numbers, interfering with proper digestion. As the individual segments mature they drop off, and may be seen in the droppings of the sheep as very small yellowish flat bodies which show some motion.

The life history is not known for either kind of tapeworm, and therefore we do not know what preventative measures to take against this parasite.

No successful treatment has been found for the fringed tapeworm of the liver. A number of different treatments for the other tapeworm have been recommended. We find that the copper sulphate and nicotine treatment used for stomach worms and intestinal roundworms is quite effective for tapeworms.

#### Liver-Fluke

In certain parts of the United States liver-flukes have caused serious sheep losses. Flukes are most common in the Pacific Coast states and the states bordering on the Gulf of Mexico. Flukes are also present in Utah, and in Montana they occur west of the Continental Divide. Their distribution is dependent upon the distribution of certain snails in which the flukes pass through certain stages of their development. As the snails live in water, it will be seen that here again, as with the roundworms, water and warmth are necessary for the development of the flukes outside of the body of the sheep. The eggs are passed out of the sheep, and if they drop in a moist place, they hatch and the embryo attacks a snail. In the snail the embryo develops into another intermediate form which swims in water. This in turn becomes encysted and is taken into the digestive tract of the sheep. The larvae which are taken into the digestive tract bore through the wall of the intestine into the body cavity. They then find their way to the surface of the liver. They go through the capsule of the liver and work into the bile ducts. In the liver the flukes become mature. The mature fluke is about an inch long, and is a thin flat body somewhat oval in shape, with a sucker at the front end.

The sheep become infested with flukes in the summer and fall, and in severe cases the disease reaches the point of killing the sheep in the winter months. In these cases the liver contains many flukes, which produce a severe inflammation. The young flukes also cause diseased spots in other parts of the abdominal cavity. The sheep become poor and weak and have a diarrhea. Many of them die.

In recent years there has been developed an effective treatment for liver-flukes, which will kill all the mature flukes in the liver. It will not affect the young flukes which have not yet reached the bile ducts. The treatment consists of giving the



sheep a capsule containing 1 c.c. of carbon tetrachloride. This treatment may be repeated to get the flukes which may have matured after the first treatment.

Prevention of trouble with flukes consists of running sheep on well drained land and keeping them away from swampy areas. Or if such land must be used for pasture, the snails which are necessary to complete the life history of the flukes, may be destroyed by spraying the wet area with a one per cent solution of copper sulphate.

### Lung Worms

There are two kinds of worms which may be found in the lungs of sheep. At times lung-worms are present in large numbers, and deaths may result from their presence. One kind of lung-worm is called the thread lung-worm. This is the larger type of lung-worm, and appears like a white thread from one to four inches long. When the lung of a sheep infested with these worms is cut into, the white thread-like worms are seen in the bronchial tubes, sometimes in tangled masses. The other kind of lung-worm which is found in sheep is much smaller and is called the hair lung-worm. They are so small that they are difficult to find but may be present in large numbers. The hair lung-worm works into the minute air sacs and may not be seen to any extent in the bronchial tubes.

While lung-worms may be present in range sheep, we have seldom seen much of this trouble in the range states. Infestation with these parasites may become serious in farm sheep. The conditions which are favorable to the development of stomach and intestinal worms also favor the development of lung-worms. Warmth and moisture are necessary for the development of the worm larvae to the infective stage, and therefore low-lying wet pastures as well as confinement of the sheep to a small area is conducive to lung-worm trouble. The effects of lung-worms are most severe on lambs. They cause difficult breathing and paroxysms of coughing. The lambs

lose flesh and may die. In some cases pneumonia develops. Often lung-worms and stomach worms are present at the same time, and the poor condition of the lamb is the result of the combination of parasites.

Treatment for lung-worms is unsatisfactory, although some good results have been reported from injecting certain medicinal agents into the trachea. Many cases recover if they are removed from the pastures where the infection exists. Prevention here, as in the case of intestinal worms, consists in avoiding low wet pastures, and avoiding overstocking of pastures.

### Grub in the Head

Another common parasitic trouble which should be mentioned is that known as "grub in the head." This is an infestation of the nostrils of the sheep with the larvae or maggots of the sheep nose-fly. In the hot weather of midsummer the flies deposit very small larvae in the sheep's nostrils. This process causes the sheep a great deal of discomfort. They try to escape by running, rubbing the nose in the dust, and holding their heads against each other. The minute larva gradually increases in size as it works up into the sinuses of the head until it becomes a grub or maggot nearly an inch long. This development goes on all through the following winter, and in the spring the grub drops out and eventually becomes a fly.

The grubs in the nostrils and sinuses cause a great deal of irritation, and a catarrhal condition develops which causes "snotty noses" and difficult breathing. Treatment for this trouble is not satisfactory. The only practical method of prevention of this trouble which has been devised is to keep the sheep's nose smeared with pine tar, which prevents the flies from attacking it. Some owners run the sheep through a chute every one or two weeks during the fly season and smear the tar on their noses. Another method is to arrange a salting trough in such a way that the sheep must rub their noses against tar when they take salt. One

way of doing this is to place the salt in holes in a log and keep tar smeared around the edges of the holes. Another method which has been used is to swing a board over the trough in such a way that the sheep must push against it when they take salt. Canvas or burlap is tacked to the board and kept saturated with tar.

### Lamb Price Prospects

ON the basis of April sales feeders made a fairly good profit. Lambs sold prior to March lost money. They began to break even in March and reached the profit stage in April. Whether the feeder made a profit or took a loss will depend on what time he marketed his lambs.

One of the most encouraging things is that an increased tonnage of ovine meat was consumed in the six months ending with April. Beef and pork tonnage decreased in the same period and prices declined, but dressed lamb found an increasing outlet at strengthening prices. High prices in former years had cut down demand for dressed lamb, and low prices this year had opened up outlet channels again.

Some claim that sheepmen should reduce production in order that higher prices can prevail. This might be best for the immediate future, but on a long-time basis low prices for a period, which have already begun to renew meat outlet, would be beneficial. America's mutton taste needs further nursing before it rounds into a vigorous volume. When this is accomplished the price side will take care of itself without reducing production.

While no contracts have been made by feeders for new crop lambs, the fact that winter fed lambs had a fairly good market the past thirty days should brighten prospects in the range lamb sections. There probably will be no contracting of feeding lambs until mid-summer, but if favorable crop conditions develop the outlet for feeding lambs this fall should be large.

C. M. PIPKIN.

# Why He Shot High

By ALLYN TEDMON



To test the sights of your rifle, rig up a firm sand-bag rest. Lie flat on your belly, and hold the stock into the shoulder with the left hand. This gives a very steady position.

RECENTLY a sheepman friend came to me with a sad and prolonged tale of woe. He had bought a brand new .30-30 rifle and some of the new high velocity cartridges for it. But even though he was in fact a good rifle shot, the Jinx had him. He couldn't hit a thing with this outfit. However, when he was using the regular old style .30-30 cartridges he could hit as usual.

"What the heck's the matter?" he exploded.

Now Jim was like a whole lot of other practical rifle shots. He was a good shot, and knew how to handle a rifle, but what he didn't know about the theory of rifle shooting would have filled volumes. Consequently, it was up to me to do some explaining in plain everyday English. And the following is about what I told Jim:

In the first place, no bullet shot from any rifle shoots flat. There is no such thing, actually as "point blank range." This term has come to be accepted for a certain thing, but it really means nothing. The fact of it is that every bullet, no matter how fast it is going, is pulled down, toward the earth, by gravity, the instant it emerges from the rifle barrel. In other words a bullet is subject to the laws of falling bodies just the same as any other falling body, or body falling through space. Because of this fact, the flight of

the bullet is in the form of a curve from the barrel to the target.

Now the slower the bullet goes, the higher this curve is. The faster the bullet goes, the greater the velocity, the nearer a straight line this curve is. And this curve is called the trajectory of the bullet. You know how a base ball curves up into the air when you throw it to second base? You know how much greater the curve is when the ball is thrown out to midfield? Well, that curve is the trajectory and every bullet shows a curve in its flight just the same as the base ball.

Now, back to Jim's new rifle. That rifle evidently was set at the factory, that is the sights were adjusted, for the regular .30-30 cartridges which develop about 2000 feet per second velocity, at the muzzle. The bullet in this cartridge shows a trajectory for 200 yards, that is the bullet is that high at 100 yards, or midway, of about six inches. You understand now that when shooting at 200 yards the bullet will be about six inches above the horizontal line between the rifle muzzle and the target, at midway, or 100 yards. So good so far.

But the cartridges that Jim had bought were what we know as high velocity cartridges, or, as one maker calls them, 'Hi-Speed'. At any rate these cartridges are loaded with a somewhat lighter bullet, and this bullet has a velocity of around 2500

feet per second. Ah, as the Dutchman said, "Here is a horse of some more color," because we find that this bullet has a trajectory of about three and a half inches when the rifle is sighted for 200 yards. And here is where all of Jim's trouble came in.

There were just two things that Jim could do to correct the situation. Either he could put in a higher front sight, or lower the rear sight. Why? Well, that is just what Jim said, and here is the reason.

The rules for adjusting rifle sights are few, but very set. To make a rifle shoot higher you can either use a lower front sight, or raise the rear sight, and vice versa. If the rifle shoots to the left and you want to make it shoot to the right you can either move the front sight to the left, or move the rear sight to the right. In other words, you move the front sight in the opposite direction to which you want to make the rifle shoot, or you move the rear sight in the direction in which you wish to make the rifle shoot.

"That's just as clear as mud," laughed Jim, after I got through displaying my knowledge on rifles. "You'll have to show me, Al."

"Come on," I grunted helplessly, "bring that confounded gun and a box of those new cartridges and follow me."

We selected a place in a dry creek bottom where we could shoot into a

high cut bank. I rigged up a good solid rest with a bag of sand, and then lay out on my belly behind it. Meantime Jim put up a paper target at 100 yards, with a good big bullseye to aim at. I fired one shot. Jim galloped down the creek and announced that the bullet had hit the paper just at the top of the bulls-



Move the rear sight in the direction you wish the rifle to shoot. Use a penny or a brass rod between the sight and the hammer.

eye. I had held the tip of the front sight so that it just touched the bottom of the bullseye. Also he said the bullet was about two inches to the left.

Well, we fixed the side shooting first by taking a hammer and a penny and driving the rear sight to the right a couple of taps. Another shot showed that another tap or two would be about right, and it was. The rifle now shot high, but true in a vertical line. Now to fix the high shooting. There were two things that could be done. Either put in a higher front sight, or a lower rear one. In this case it was easier to lower the rear one.

"But how you goin' to do it?" demanded Jim, sticking his big hands down into his pockets and staring at me.

"Go get that fine three-cornered file in the car," I replied.

As soon as Jim got back I took the rifle and set in on that rear sight. It was one of these cheap factory

open rear sights, so I had no fear of hurting it much. The sight was as low as it could be made to go. But with the file I cut the notch lower, until after filing and shooting a shot now and then, I had the rifle set so that it hit just 3.5 inches above the point of aim, the point where the tip of the front sight was held, or in fact sighted for 200 yards. You recall that we said that the 200 yards trajectory for this load was 3.5 inches?

"Now, Jim," I said when all was done. "This rifle will shoot close enough for coyotes up to

about 225 yards, with this Hi Speed load. But if you go to shoot the old regular cartridges you will have to raise this rear sight probably one notch."

"O. K.," Jim smiled, taking the rifle. "This is the load for

me for coyotes. And I am going to leave those sights just as you have got them set. No wonder I couldn't hit anything. If it was shooting two inches to the left at 100 yards it must have been shooting four or five inches to the left at 200 yards, and it was shooting too high to even hit elephants."

And all of this was the truth. And so it with every new rifle. You should never take out a rifle for serious, or any other kind of shooting, without first taking the time and

trouble to set the sights to suit your eyes. The way Jim and I handled his rifle is as good as any. Don't ever put the rifle in a vise because you ruin all accuracy by doing this. But get a good solid rest and with a good big bullseye to aim at, go ahead and set your sights at 100 yards. If you don't know the trajectory of the cartridges you are using you can get it from the maker of your rifle, or from the ballistic table of any of the big cartridge companies. It happened that Jim had a .30-30 which has always been so popular with ranchmen. The .250-3000 Savage, another rifle that has been very popular with sheepmen, has a



For Hi speed cartridges, either put in a higher front sight, or easier, file out the notch in the rear sight. Be sure the rear sight is at its lowest point on the barrel.

trajectory of 2.5 inches for 200 yards. This may help some of you.

There is no deep, dark secret in knowing about rifles. Anyone who understands physics knows the laws that govern rifle fire and the flight of bullets. These few hints that I have repeated, and which I know were an eye opener to Jim, may also help you. The probabilities are that the rifle you think is no good simply needs to have its sights adjusted. Jim does it for himself now, and so can you.



## Washington and Utah Feeders' Results

THE finishing of a larger number of range feeder lambs in the vicinities in which they are raised seems likely to result from the experience of last year. There appears to be sufficient crops in many parts of the range territory to permit some finishing of lambs after making the necessary reservations of feed for wintering breeding flocks, and for other local uses. If rangemen can finish some of their own feeders profitably, the result will be doubly advantageous, as it will also reduce the number of animals being shipped and appearing at the large markets during the season of heavy runs.

Mr. H. Stanley of Yakima, Washington, has given the Wool Grower the results of a test conducted by him to show the values of wheat screenings and molasses in different proportions and also included the financial returns. Mr. Chas. Redd, president of the La Sal Live Stock Company, La Sal, Utah, also furnishes a statement of the outcome of finishing over 3,000 lambs on the company's home ranch.

### Mr. Coffin's Experiment

I HAVE just finished a private experiment to test out the most economical proportions of mixing molasses and wheat screenings in finishing lambs.

I had 600 lambs on feed in six lots for forty days. During the first twenty days, they all received 1.6 pounds of grain per head daily, and 1.8 pounds of hay. In the second twenty days they had 2 pounds of grain per head per day, and 1.5 pounds of hay. We did not feed heavy enough or long enough to put on a full finish, but the gains were quite rapid and the lambs were sold at the close of the experiment at 7½ cents per pound with one hundred out at 7 cents.

The principal object was to test

the most economical proportions of mixing molasses with Canadian heavy wheat screenings. In the case of Lot No. 2, I also used some soya beans, and with Lot No. 6, .3 of the grain mixture oat offal during the first twenty days.

The amount of the gains and their cost with each ration is shown in the tabulated figures below.

LAMB FEEDING EXPERIMENT  
100 Lambs in Each Pen

First 20-day period: Fed 1.6 lbs. grain and 1.8 lbs. hay			Second 20-day period: Fed 2 lbs. grain and 1.5 lbs. hay			Cost per lb. gain both feeds, 40 days
Grain Mixture	Gain per head	Cost of Gain per lb.	Grain Mixture	Gain per head	Cost of Gain per lb.	
LOT 1			200 lbs. Linseed, 700 lbs. Molasses, 1100 lbs. Screenings			
Straight Screenings	3.40	16.35		8.10	8.04	10.75
LOT 2			200 lbs. Soya, 800 lbs. Molasses, 1000 lbs. Screenings			
	5.35	12.00		6.80	10.00	10.84
LOT 3			200 lbs. Molasses, 1000 lbs. Peas, 800 lbs. Screenings			
	6.30	9.00		5.65	10.46	10.00
LOT 4			650 lbs. Screenings, 350 lbs. Molasses, 1000 lbs. Wheat			
	4.35	14.00		5.85	10.80	12.13
LOT 5			650 lbs. Screenings, 350 lbs. Molasses, 1000 lbs. Rolled Wheat			
	4.75	12.53		6.35	10.00	11.05
LOT 6			400 lbs. Molasses, 600 lbs. Oat Offal, 1000 lbs. Screenings			
	5.40	10.43		8.70	6.80	7.12

It is shown that the cheapest gains of the experiment were also the biggest gains. This was in the case of the lot which for the last twenty days received 2 pounds per head per day of a mixture of one part molasses and one part screenings, along with 1½ pounds of hay. The next cheapest gains were made in lot number three which during the last period had a grain ration of one part molasses, four parts of screenings and five parts peas.

These 600 lambs went into the lots at an average weight of 74 pounds, and were valued at 5¾ cents. Figuring the cost of the feed, and allowing

a labor charge of \$2.00 per day, they netted out 48 cents per head over their cost as feeders.

The average gain per head during the forty days was 11¾ pounds, and was made at a cost of 10.3 cents per pound. The lambs were fed in the open and during part of the time the lots were quite muddy; otherwise, the outcome would have been more favorable. The figures show that on a margin of \$1.65 between the cost of feeders, and the selling price of the fat lambs, there was a profit of 48 cents per head.

Yakima, Wash. H. Stanley Coffin

### Utah Lambs Finished at a Profit

The La Sal Livestock Company of southeastern Utah finished at home, 3,232 feeder lambs which were offered for sale in the fall and for which 5¼ cents per pound was the highest offer made. These lambs were placed on feed in the last part of October, and carried for 105 days on an average ration of one pound of grain per head per day, and two and one-half pounds of hay, the grain being made up of three parts of barley to one part of wheat. They made a gain of eighteen pounds each. When finished, they were hauled seventy miles in trucks to the railroad

loading station. The two trucks made three trips daily to load a double deck car. The cars were billed out to Kansas City as loaded. The lambs were not weighed at the feed yards, but were weighed in the trucks on arriving at the railroad at Thompson. The shrinkage appears to have been entirely in the truck hauling, as the Kansas City selling weight on the entire shipment was only 100 pounds below the weight taken when arriving at the railroad.

After the lambs were charged with their grain at one cent per pound, hay at \$6.00 per ton, and trucking at 30 cents per head, they made a net return of 30 cents each above the valuation of  $5\frac{1}{4}$  cents placed on them in the fall.

Ten cars of the lambs sold at Kansas City without sorting at an average net price of 7.15 cents per hundred.

In discussing the outcome of the venture, Mr. Redd, President of the La Sal Company, said, "This is our first experience in lamb feeding, and we are satisfied with the results. We made very little money on the transaction, but we had a cash market for the hay and grain grown on our own ranges. We plan to repeat the operation next year."

### Prices of Food Products

**D**URING the past session of Congress three resolutions were introduced in the Senate on current prices of food products. They were referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, a subcommittee of which Senator Capper (Kansas) was chairman, made investigations and submitted its report just prior to the adjournment of Congress. Senator Robert D. Carey (Wyoming) was the author of the resolution promising to extend the inquiry to live stock and meats.

The committee's investigation, the report states, reveals "an alarming tendency toward the monopolistic control of the food of the nation by a small group of powerful corporations and combinations. This is particularly true as to bread and



Three 70-Mile Trips of Two Trucks of This Character Loaded a Double Deck Car of Lambs for the LaSal Livestock Company.

milk. The facts as to the influence of the big packers over the meat industry are well known. Within the past few years the absorption of independent bakers and milk distributors by gigantic, nation-wide corporations, holding companies, mergers, and chain enterprises, has been carried forward with amazing rapidity."

A careful study of this development by the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice was recommended by the committee, with the suggestion that "if existing laws are not sufficient to control these mergers and combinations in the public interest," remedial legislation should be enacted.

Retail prices of meat, according to the report, have reflected the lower price received by the producer and the packer on a cents per pound basis, but "the percentage of decrease in the retail price is materially less due (1) to the fixed charges for distribution, which have remained practically constant; (2) to the reduction in the per capita consumption of meat; and (3) to the large increase in the number of dealers handling meats." This condition was not held by the committee to be caused by restraint of trade but by too many dealers competing with each other. It also considers that "there is too great a difference between the gross profit of the retail meat dealer and the amount received by the livestock producer for the

equivalent in meat" and suggests a careful study of the marketing of livestock and meat and all other farm products, as the condition seems to be a general one.

Excerpts from the section of the committee's report on meat and meat products follows:

In considering meat and meat food products the committee obtained information from the livestock producers, packers and retail meat dealers, and data from various government bureaus showing the price paid for livestock, the prices paid by the consumer for meat and the various trends in the meat industry. This information indicated that the price paid to the farmer, the price charged by the packer and the retail price of meat all showed a rather steady upward trend from early in 1922 to about two years ago. A slight drop then occurred for a few months, followed by an upward trend of a few months and then a marked decline until at the present time the farm price of hogs is the lowest since July, 1924, of cattle the lowest since 1926, and of lambs the lowest since 1913. The present retail prices of beef are the lowest since 1927; of fresh pork, lowest since early 1928, and of lamb the lowest since November, 1921.

Considered on a cents per pound basis, the retail price of meat has reflected the decline in the price paid the producer. Taking beef as an example, the committee finds that the farm price of all cattle per hundred pounds dropped \$2.55 from the high point in September, 1928, to January, 1931. For good to choice steers the price at the Chicago market during the same period dropped \$6.19 per hundred pounds, a decrease of 38 per cent. This latter figure is more comparable for determining wholesale and retail prices of meat, since it is the price paid by the packer, whereas

the farm price includes all grades sold, regardless of quality. Average wholesale prices of beef carcasses at Chicago and New York show a drop of a little over 6½ cents per pound, which is about 27 per cent. Retail prices of representative cuts of beef show reductions ranging from 4 to 9 cents per pound, or an average of about 17 per cent.

From this it will be noted that although the retail price of beef has decreased in cents practically the same amount as the wholesale price of beef carcasses, the percentage of decrease is materially less, due to the fixed charges of distribution. A similar situation holds in the other meats, such as hogs and lambs. \* \* \*

The committee finds no substantial evidence of a conspiracy or combination in restraint of trade operating to maintain high retail prices on meat and meat-food products. The very nature of the distribution system is such as to make it difficult for such a combination to operate effectively. Retail meat dealers are, as a rule, independent of outside or financial control and operate on a relatively small scale. Meat is a perishable product and one that must be moved into consumptive channels

within a relatively short period of time, so the retail meat dealer must place a price on his meat, which will make it attractive to the public he is serving.

The committee's conclusions in regard to the prices of bread and milk were, in part, that the retail price of bread has not declined proportionately with the price of wheat, with some evidence of a combination in restraint of trade; wholesale and retail prices of white flour have generally reflected the decline in the price of wheat; and that "the lower prices paid to the farmer for milk purchased for fluid purposes have in general been reflected in the retail prices charged to the consumer," but that "in the majority of cases the reduction to the consumer has been taken wholly from the price paid to the farmer without any portion of the reduction being borne by the distributor."

## Two Lupines Poison Stock

IN AREAS in northern California and in eastern Oregon and Washington many cattle have died apparently from plant poisoning. In certain localities where the symptoms of the affected animals have been described as very similar to those of cattle affected by larkspur, there were very few of these plants, and in some areas none at all. In 1925, W. W. Eggleston of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, while making a botanical survey in one of these areas, was informed that a cattle owner suspected that a species of lupine, known botanically as *Lupinus caudatus*, had poisoned his cattle. Another plant identified as *Lupinus laxiflorus* variety *silvicola* grew abundantly in a neighboring area.

The Experiment Station of the Bureau of Animal Industry at Salina, Utah, procured some nearly mature fruit of this plant and fed it experimentally to cattle, horses, and sheep. While this lupine poisoned all three species of animals, it prov-

ed particularly dangerous to cattle. It was slightly less poisonous to horses, and was only about one-tenth as toxic to sheep.



Rambouillet Association Trophy Competed for Annually at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. Won in 1930 by the Montana State College.

The visible effects of this plant differed considerably in the three classes of animals. In cattle the symptoms were very similar to those of animals poisoned by larkspur. There was marked weakness and muscular trembling. Both symptoms increased greatly if the animals were made to exert themselves in any way. Poisoned horses acted as though affected by a colic, while sheep became very nervous and excitable. The duration of the symptoms varied from about one hour to more than eight days.

In 1928 and again in 1929 Dr. C. D. Marsh of the Bureau of Animal Industry visited Sherman County, Oregon, and the Yakima Indian Reservation where animals had died in 1928. In both these areas those who had seen the affected cattle described the symptoms as being similar to those produced by larkspur. In both areas, too, there was a small lupine which had been eaten to some extent, presumably by cattle. This was later determined to be *Lupinus laxiflorus*, or a very closely related variety. Samples of the fruit of this plant, were fed to cattle and sheep and found to be poisonous, causing symptoms very similar to those produced by the variety *silvicola*.

The study of these plants and their effects on animals is not completed, but the results are sufficiently definite to make it advisable to call attention to them, the bureau believes. That the *Lupinus laxiflorus* variety *silvicola* has caused the loss of cattle in several localities seems to be fairly evident. It is less evident that the species *Lupinus laxiflorus* caused the losses in Oregon and Washington. However, the facts should not be overlooked that these two closely related varieties are poisonous, that they produce symptoms in cattle very similar to those described for the field cases, and that one or the other of the varieties has grown and has been eaten by animals in the areas where the losses have occurred.

(Release of U. S. Department of Agriculture.)



## Game and Grazing

(Continued from page 9)

"Federal preserves or refuges established on the national forests by specific acts of Congress afford adequate protection where public sentiment is indifferent and state laws ineffective, or where a particular species of game animal or bird is approaching extinction and its preservation is of national importance. They also serve as demonstrational and experimental areas on which research may be conducted."

Major Stuart does not suggest or indicate how, or by whom, the remedial measures should be taken "before injury to the herds, range and other resources becomes too serious." As shown in the first part of this article it seems possible that it may be left to the states to devise and employ the remedial measures needed to maintain the right balance between wild and domestic animals upon the forest lands owned and administered by Federal government.

Many of the field officers of the Forest Service have for some time been concerned over the grazing conditions that have been developing as a result of the rapid increase in game. An article printed in the Producer of last January is concluded by John H. Hatton of the Denver office of the Forest Service with these words:

Game management has come to have very practical considerations, not only in the West, but in all parts of the country. Each region and locality presents its own question and answer. Important local interests should be represented in working out constructive programs. In many places, wild life should, no doubt, be dropped from consideration altogether. In others, it may be given a larger or more specialized place. Those who are able to analyze conditions according to locality, and to reach proper conclusions on relative local needs and possibilities, are going to be the wild-life conservers of the future. That responsibility is not going to be delegated to paid story-writers, nor to prejudiced and uninformed minds. Game conservation itself and modern pursuits will both rightly require and demand better, saner, and safer treatment of this whole important subject.

A large part of the problem has developed through the establishment  
(Continued to page 45)

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 tions at \$1.50 each. The Hawkeye  
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 subscription.

**National Wool Grower**

509 McCornick Building  
 Salt Lake City, Utah

(Continued from page 43)

by states of game refuges, in which the Forest Service has cooperated. It was supposed that exclusion of hunters from sizeable areas would allow the propagation of game animals along with the grazing of livestock, but number and extent of such areas, together with state game laws, have resulted in such a large increase in the game that there is an insufficient supply of forage for the present game population and the regular number of permitted livestock, and since present state laws, and the federal policy of allowing the states to govern the situation permit the rapid increase of wild animals, the herds and flocks of the settlers, farmers, and stockmen must be reduced.

Twenty federal game preserves covering nearly one and a half million acres have been established on forest lands. Twenty states have 258 game refuges covering over 19 million acres. The number and extent of these refuges in western states is shown below.

	No.	Acres
Arizona	23	1,102,601
California	31	2,034,853
Colorado	18	2,666,484
Idaho	20	3,033,578
Montana	19	1,213,831
Nevada	10	1,155,282
New Mexico	55	1,134,127
Oregon	11	735,226
Utah	10	1,157,526
Washington	24	2,284,058
Wyoming	18	2,739,898
Total	239	19,257,464

The above figures include only the areas of game refuges that lie within national forests. In nine western states there are 15 national parks of which the combined areas amount to 5,800,000 acres. This area is entirely closed to hunters and to grazing by domestic livestock, and is also open to almost unrestricted recreational use.

It would seem that the Forest Service finds itself committed to a policy of aiding in increasing the production of game but is unable or unwilling to take action to limit or control such production, even when critical situations seem inevitable.

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For prices write or wire.

**T. J. HUDSPETH**

Seligman, Arizona



**The Range Country**

(Continued from page 21)  
**Uvalde**

We have had lots of rain during the last month, and the range could not be better, (April 29).

A larger percentage of ewes is being lambled this year, and the lamb crop so far is greater. We began lambing about February 1. We lamb our sheep in bands from 150 to 500 in separate pastures.

The National Wool Marketing Corporation is advancing 14 cents on short wool, and about 18 cents on twelve-months' wool.

The growers here are divided in their sentiment toward the Wool Marketing Corporation, but I believe that the Co-op is leading.

W. C. BRYSON

**The Omaha Market**

FED shorn lambs finished the month no more than steady with the end of March and spring lambs, both natives and Californias, showed a seasonal drop after Easter, closing around \$2.00 lower. Fed woolled lambs, however, advanced 25@35 cents net during the period.

Receipts during April at this market were of record volume, passing 313,000 head, due largely to the early movement of California lambs. Shipper demand was strong, however, and its effect was stimulating to all classes but especially in the case of woolskins.

California springers sold mainly at \$10.00@11.00, not many passing \$10.75, with second cuts down to \$9.00. Practical top on natives was \$11.50 and sales ranged from there on down to \$10.00. Fed lambs, both woolled and shorn, reached the highest levels on old-crop lambs recorded since last summer. Woolskins touched \$9.75 and shorn \$8.60. Bulk of the former moved at \$8.75@9.50.

On the close best shorn ewes did not sell over \$2.75. Some improvements in both lambs and ewes has taken place since the first of the month.

K. H. KITTOE.

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Rambouillet  
and  
Corriedale  
Sheep



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Our Champion Corriedale Ram undefeated at the 1930 shows—Wyoming and Colorado State Fairs, Ak-Sar-Ben, Kansas National, American Royal and Chicago International.

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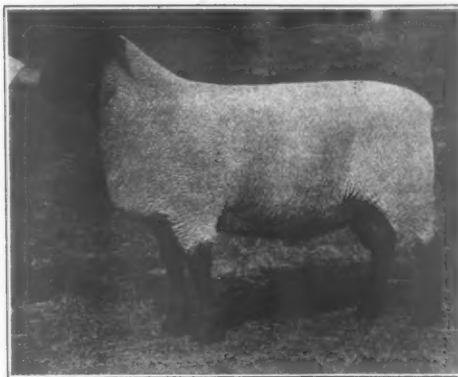
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